WORLD SOCCER

The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

MAY 1988 £1.10

IR £1.60

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CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL SPECIAL

Double club focus
PSV EINDHOVEN versus BENFICA

Player Portraits:
OLEG PROTASOV
RUDI VÖLLER

AFRICAN FINALS REPORT

Exclusive: COLUMBIA MANAGER'S WARNING

WORLD SOCCER
THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE
Editor
KEIR RADNEDGE
Managing Editor
PHILIP RISING
Advertisement Manager
MICK HOOKER

WHAT TO CALL
EDITORIAL
01-831-6878
ADVERTISING
01-831-6870
SUBSCRIPTION
01-831-6875
CIRCULATION
01-831-6871

MAY 1988
Vol.28 No.8

Exclusive:

FRONT cover this month is Careca, Brazilian World Cup spearhead enjoying a successful first season in Italy with Napoli. Back cover picture, also from Italy, is the Juventus team group.

Onslow House
60-66 Saffron Hill
London EC1N 8AY

WORLD SOCCER is published by the Proprietors Webster's Publications Ltd. Origination and typsetting by Saffron Graphics, Onslow House, 66 Saffron Hill, London EC1N 8AY. Printed by Thamesmouth, Basildon, Essex. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper.
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PSV TO WIN?

CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL
BENFICA v PSV EINDHOVEN
Stuttgart — May 25
Ref — Agnolin (Italy)

PSV EINDHOVEN, already celebrating a third successive Dutch championship, are the favourites.

Not only have they dominated in Holland and run up more than 100 league goals, they provide a powerful and skilful mixture of the best of the Dutch and Danish games.

Sweeper Ronald Koeman is available for the Final after suspension to support the likes of Danish midfielder Soren Lerby and Dutch striker Wim Kieft.

But Benfica, who will be the romantics' favourites after winning the Cup in the glory days of 1961 and 1962, will not be pushovers.

They have a varied attack and will gain confidence from knowing that PSV won both quarter and semi-finals (against Bordeaux and then Real Madrid) thanks only to the away goals rule.

But one factor will work against Benfica as they seek to emulate last year's winners Porto. The memory of Porto's success will prevent the Dutch under-rating their Portuguese rivals — as Bayern Munich did, fatally, last year.

CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL

BENFICA

4-0 v Partizan Tirana
Hametaj og, Mozer, Rui, Aguas 2
Walkover
Benfica 4-0 on agg

0-0 v Aarhus
1-0 v Aarhus
Nunes
Benfica 1-0 on agg

2-0 v Anderlecht
Magnusson, Chiquinho
0-1 v Anderlecht
Benfica 2-1 on agg

0-0 v Steaua Bucharest
2-0 v Steaua Bucharest
Rui Aguas 2
Benfica 2-0 on agg

PSV EINDHOVEN

First Round
3-0 v Galatasary
Gillhaus, Koeman, Koet
0-2 v Galatasary
PSV 3-2 on agg

Second Round
2-1 v Rapid Vienna
Van Aerle, Gillhaus
2-0 v Rapid Vienna
Lerby, Gillhaus
PSV 4-1 on agg

Quarter-finals
1-1 v Bordeaux (a)
Kieft
0-0 v Bordeaux
PSV on away goal: 1-1 agg

Semi-finals
1-1 v Real Madrid (a)
Linskens
0-0 v Real Madrid
PSV on away goal: 1-1 agg

CUP-WINNERS' CUP FINAL
AJAX AMSTERDAM (holders) v MECHELEN
May 11 — Strasbourg
Ref: Pauly (West Germany)

CUP-WINNERS' CUP FINAL

AJAX AMSTERDAM (holders)

4-0 v Dundalk
Rijkaard, Blind, Winter, Stapleton
2-0 v Dundalk
Newe og, Meijer
Ajax 6-0 on agg

1-0 v Hamburg
Meijer
2-0 v Hamburg
Muhren, Meijer
Ajax 3-0 on agg

1-0 v Young Boys (a)
Bosman
1-0 v Young Boys
Larsson
Ajax 2-0 on agg

3-0 v Marseille (a)
Rob Witschge 2, Bergkamp
1-2 v Marseille
Larsson
Ajax 4-2 on agg

MECHELEN

First Round
1-0 v Dinamo Bucharest
Den Boer
2-0 v Dinamo Bucharest
Hofkens, Den Boer
Mechelen 3-0 on agg

Second Round
0-0 v St Mirren
2-0 v St Mirren
Ohana 2
Mechelen 2-0 on agg

Quarter-finals
1-0 v Minsk Dynamo
Dewilde
1-1 v Minsk Dynamo
Ohana
Mechelen 2-1 on agg

Semi-finals
2-1 v Atalanta
Ohana, Den Boer
2-1 v Atalanta (a)
Rutjes, Emmers
Mechelen 4-2 on agg

UEFA CUP FINAL
ESPANOL (Barcelona) v BAYER LEVERKUSEN
Barcelona — May 4
Ref — Krchnak (Cz)
Leverkusen — May 18
Ref — Keizer (Holland)

ESPANOL

1-0 v Borrusia Mg
Pineda
4-1 v Borussia Mg
Valverde, Perez, Golobart, Pineda
Espanol 5-1 on agg

2-0 v Milan
Zubillaga, Pichi Alonso
0-0 v Milan
Espanol 2-0 on agg

1-1 v Internazionale
Lauridsen
1-0 v Internazionale
Orejuela
Espanol 2-1 on agg

2-0 v Vitkovice
Lauridsen, Pineda
0-0 v Vitkovice
Espanol 2-0 on agg

0-2 v Club Brugge
A.Reinhardt
3-0 v Club Brugge (aet)
Orejuela, Losada, Alonso
Espanol 3-2 on agg

BAYER LEVERKUSEN

First Round
0-0 v FK Austria
5-1 v FK Austria
Rolff 2, Schreier, Horster, Cha
Leverkusen 5-1 on agg

Second Round
1-1 v Toulouse
Schreier
1-0 v Toulouse
Schreier
Leverkusen 2-1 on agg

Third Round
2-2 v Feyenoord
Buncol, Falkenmayer
1-0 v Feyenoord
Gotz
Leverkusen 3-2 on agg

Quarter-finals
0-0 v Barcelona
1-0 v Barcelona (a)
Tita
Leverkusen 1-0 on agg

Semi-finals
1-0 v Werder Bremen
0-0 v Werder Bremen (a)
Leverkusen 1-0 on agg

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IN?

The unlucky Klaus Allofs

NEXT MONTH'S BUMPER ISSUE

DON'T miss. . . the June issue of World Soccer!
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STEIN DOUBLE SINKS ARSENAL

ON the weekend when South African-born Zola Budd was upsetting the athletics world, it was another South African-born sportsman who was gathering the honours and accolades at Wembley.

Brian Stein, born and brought up in Capetown, was the match-winner as underdogs Luton made amends for their shock Simod Cup defeat at the hands of Second Division Reading on the same stage a few weeks earlier.

Luton beat favourites Arsenal 3-2, coming back in a dramatic second-half after being 2-1 down and needing goalkeeper Andy Dibble to save a Nigel Winterburn penalty to keep them in the game.

Stein, who had earlier persuaded younger brother Mark to think again after an angry walk-out at being 'only' substitute, scored the first half goal which put Luton ahead and then the last minute winner.

It was a weekend of decisive action in Britain, with Liverpool beating Tottenham 1-0 (thanks to a Peter Beardsley goal) to complete the formality of wrapping up their 17th league championship - - and, in Scotland, Celtic also making sure of their title success with a 3-0 victory over Dundee.

LITTLEWOODS CUP FINAL

Luton 3 (B.Stein 13, 89, Wilson 82)
Arsenal 2 (Hayes 71, Smith 74)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 95,732. **Ref:** J.Worrell.

Luton: Dibble — Breacker, Johnson, Hill, Foster, Donaghy, Wilson, B.Stein, Harford (M.Stein 63), Preece (Grimes 77), Black. Manager: Ray Harford.

Arsenal: Lukic — Winterburn, Sansom, Thomas, Caesar, Adams, Rocastle, Davis, Smith, Groves (Hayes 60), Richardson. Manager: George Graham.

ALLOFS WILL MISS FINALS

WEST GERMANY have struck more trouble, only six weeks from the European championship finals.

Skipper Klaus Allofs, their most consistent forward throughout the 1980s, is likely to miss the event after undergoing an operation on his left knee.

Allofs, who plays in France for Marseille, had been struggling with the injury for some time.

IRAQ'S GULF TRIUMPH

THOUSANDS of bullets were fired into the air in Baghdad — this time, at least, in a peaceful cause — as Iraq celebrated triumph in the Gulf Cup.

In the seven-nation tournament in Saudi Arabia, the Iraqis recovered from an uncertain start to rediscover some of the flair and confidence which took them to the World Cup Finals in Mexico two years ago.

Iraq struggled in their first match against Oman, conceding a goal to Naser Hemdan early in the second-half and snatching a draw only thanks to an equaliser from Ali Hussein. They were then perhaps a little fortunate next time out to beat holders Kuwait 1-0.

Manager Ammu Baba came in for heavy criticism for some of his decisions on team selection and tactics. But against Qatar, it all started to come right.

Qatar had only themselves to blame for not being in front at the intervalbut in the second-half, Iraqi winger Habib Jefar, from Arab club champions Rasheed, turned on his magic.

First, he drove a 14-yard shot past Ahmed Almajed to open the scoring, and then he conjured up two more for top-scoring Ahmed Radhi.

The decisive clash was the one between hosts Saudi Arabia and the Iraqis.

A capacity 70,000 crowd in the exciting new King Fahad Stadium in Riyadh watched in dismay as, first, Radhi converted a cross from Ghanim Uraibi, then when Basil Gorgis pounced on a defensive error to fire number two past Salim Marwan.

A draw against Bahrain was all Iraq needed to clinch the title but they won this time out as well, just to make sure, thanks to a 48th minute strike from Laith Hussein.

As for the Saudis, under Uruguay's 1986 World Cup manager Omar Borras, they lacked cohesion in midfield. Neither Salih Zeki nor Basim Abu Daoud provided the sort of service needed by Majod Abdullah — the so-called Pele of the desert — Yousif, Jaze'a and Fahad Huraifi up front.

The United Arab Emirates were the most pleasing surprises of the tournament.

Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto has worked well to revive the UAE after their Olympic qualiying disappointments.

They have qualified for the Finals of the Asian Cup in Qatar later this year, discovered a dangerous new striker in Zuhair Bukheet and finished worthy runners-up.

As for Kuwait, their Olympic qualifying failure had clearly upset morale, on top of the problems caused by the Kuwaiti federation's suspension of star winger Moaid Hadad.

Manager George Armstrong looked in vain to veterans Faisal Dakheel and Yousif Swaid.

SPOTLIGHT ON EUROPEAN CUP FINALISTS PSV EINDHOVEN BY KEIR RADNE

GULLIT WISELY

PSV EINDHOVEN sold Ruud Gullit to Milan last summer for a world record £5.7 million. Yet they have never had a better chance of winning the European Champions' Cup.

They were semi-finalists in 1976, losing to Saint Etienne, but by general agreement their current team is the best in their history... thanks to the way they reinvested the cash from the Gullit sale.

A combination of the best on offer from the Dutch, Danish and Belgian games is the secret of their steady progress in Europe as well as their runaway success in the Dutch league — where they went 17 matches from the start of the season without dropping a point and have made it a hat-trick of league titles.

In 75 years since being founded on August 31, 1913, the Philips Sport Vereinigung have won the championship nine times, the cup on three occasions and the UEFA Cup (their sole European success) in 1978 under the coaching guidance of former Dutch international Kees Rijvers.

In Europe they have played 97 games, winning 49, drawing 19 and losing 29. They have scored 179 goals and conceded 93. In the Champions' Cup, they have played 34 games, winning 15, drawing ten and losing nine, scoring 61 goals and conceding 33.

Like semi-finalist victims Real Madrid, PSV also took part in the inaugural Champions' Cup. However, while Madrid were beating Servette of Switzerland in their first round tie, PSV were losing 1-0, 1-6 to Rapid Vienna.

Dutch football was only just taking its first tentative steps towards full time professionalism. Surprisingly, considering PSV's position as sports club of the giant Philips electrics corporation, they have been outshone most of the time since by Ajax and Feyenoord.

Part of this can be put down to the fact that for years the Philips company took comparatively little interest in their contract with PSV, a contract which has two years to run — even though an estimated 40,000 of the 200,000 urban population of Eindhoven work directly or indirectly for Philips.

It is only in the last couple of years that Philips have become seriously involved with club policy. In the spring of 1986, as the value of overt soccer sponsorship was fully recognised, Philips on major investment in PSV with the intention of turning the club into European champions — how better, after all, to project company identification with success?

For the first time serious thought was also given to a youth scheme which is now in operation in a pyramid topped off by 17 teenagers, between the ages of 14 and 17, who live, study and train at the club.

Key man at PSV is general manager Kees Ploegsma. He says: "Ajax are still the most popular club in Holland because of their history, their youth policies and because of Johan Cruyff. But we are now able to compete on every level.

We want the best players and we will get them — even if that means taking them from the Ajax youth section."

Ploegsma, formerly an administrator within the Philips company, has been in charge of PSV's destiny for nine years. He runs a club with an annual operating income of around £3 million — basic investment from Philips, plus £90,000 from ten "sub-sponsors" (Adidas, Opel, etc), £4,500 each from 25 minor sponsors and, of course, gate receipts (PSV have 15,000 season ticket-holders.) PSV's projected income is just under a third that of Real Madrid. But, like Madrid, this is a club for both professionals and amateurs. The expanding football section alone now involves the first team, reserves who compete in their own championship, 20 youth teams and eight amateur sides.

Some players will come through. Others will be bought. With care. Ploegsma, thinking no doubt of the bitterness which surrounded Ruud Gullit's transfer to Milan last summer, wants players with the right character.

He says: "We want players who will give 100 per cent for PSV. No mercenaries, thank you. You can't create a team just by waving a cheque-book. What matters in football is not having 11 great individuals but having one great team."

PSV appear to be on the verge of achieving that. Already key men such as goalkeeper Hans Van Breukelen and sweeper Ronald Koeman have signed contract extensions and Gerald Vanenburg is expected to do so shortly.

Six PSV players were in the Dutch squad at Wembley for the 2-2 draw with England recently. Goalkeeper Van Breukelen, attacking sweeper Koeman, midfielders Berry Van Aerle and Vanenburg and substitute defender Dick Koot all played while former Golden Boot-winner Wim Kieft was on the bench.

That same night youngsters Linskens and Viscaal were helping Holland eliminate holders Spain in the quarter finals of the European under-21 championship.

The Philips Sportpark has a capacity of only 27,000. But PSV did not do badly financially from the visit of Real Madrid. Tickets for the match cost between £4 and £18 with 600 set aside at £1.25 a time for children under 14.

Total receipts were £270,000, equalling the record for the Champions' Cup visit of Bayern Munich at the start of last season.

PSV have made a big impression on their fellow professionals already this season despite the suspicion that a lack of consistent top-level competition in the Dutch league would undermine their European bid.

Aime Jacquet, coach of Bordeaux, whom PSV beat in the quarter-finals, says: "This PSV team is terrifying." And earlier in the season Real Madrid's Dutch coach, Leo Beenhakker, said: "PSV are a threat to anybody. I can't see any obvious weakness..." Prophetic words!

THE COACH

GUUS HIDDINK. Aged 41 (born November 8, 1946). Played in the 1960s and 1970s for his home-town club Sport Varsseveld, then De Graafschap, PSV and NEC Nijmegen before moving into the North American Soccer League with Washington Diplomats and San Jose Earthquakes. Ended his career back in Holland with De Graafschap and turned to coaching in 1979. Spent four years as youth coach at De Graafschap then three years as assistant at PSV before being promoted to full charge in mid-season two years ago after the sudden departure of Hans Kraay. Had been expected to leave PSV at thge end of the season because national team boss Rinus Michels was reported to be on his way. Instead Michels has accepted a job with Bayer Leverkusen in West Germany, so Hiddink is likely to stay on at PSV.

THE SQUAD

Hans VAN BREUKELEN. Goalkeeper. Aged 31 (born Oct 4, 1956) with 34 caps. Made his name originally with FC Utrecht and when they fell heavily into debt he was sold to Nottingham Forest in 1982. Spent two years working under Brian Clough at the City Ground before returning to Holland with PSV. One of the pillars of the PSV team which this season set a Dutch record of 17 consecutive victories from the start of the season and which has reached the quarter-finals of the European Champions' Cup. In danger of losing his national team place last season but returned after injury to Hiele and has gained in confidence this term from PSV's domestic success.

Erik VAN KESSEL. Goalkeeper. Aged 22 (born Feb 28, 1966). Replacement as No 2 keeper this season for the retired veteran, Pim Doesburg.

Patrick LODEWIJKS. Goalkeeper. Aged 21 (born Feb 21, 1967). Own product.

Eric GERETS. Rightback. Aged 33 (born May 18, 1954) with 72 caps for Belgium. Joined Standard Liege originally as a centre-forward but soon switched to rightback. He was outstanding in the 1980 European championships when Belgium finished runners-up and then captained Standard in their Cup-winners' Cup final defeat by Barcelona in Nou Camp in 1982. Joined Milan in 1983 but in the spring of 1984 it emerged that Gerets had played a central role in a match-fixing scandal while with Standard. He was suspended by his federation and sacked by Milan. When his ban was lifted in the spring of 1985 he signed initially for MVV Maastricht in Holland then joined PSV Eindhoven in the summer and helped them regain the Dutch league title the following year. Made his Belgium return in the goalless draw against Poland in Chorzow in the World Cup qualifiers in September 1985. Fully rehabilitated.

Ivan NIELSEN. Stopper. Aged 31 (born Oct 9, 1956) with 41 caps for Denmark. Plays stopper for his club but can also play leftback and has appeared in both roles for Denmark. Began his career, like midfielder Soren Lerby, with Fremad Amager and moved to Holland with the Rotterdam Club, Feyenoord, in 1979. Joined PSV after the Mexico World Cup. Made his national team debut against Luxembourg in 1980. Plumber by trade.

Ronald KOEMAN. Central defender. Aged 25 (born March 21, 1963) with 22 caps. Recently voted Players' Player of the Year in Holland. One of the great successes of this season. PSV have just renegotiated his contract, tieing him to Eindhoven until 1992, as a response to transfer inquiries from Barcelona. Made his debut for the national team five years ago in a 3-0 defeat by Sweden in Utrecht. Elder brother Erwin is also an international.

Jan HEINTZE. Leftback. Aged 24 (born Aug 17, 1963) with three caps for Denmark. Another of those Danish players whisked away (in his case by PSV) before even having a chance to establish himself in Danish domestic football. Played 13 times for Denmark at under-21 level and made his senior debut in the 1-0 European qualifying victory over Finland in Helsinki in April last year.

Adick KOOT. Defender. Aged 24 (born Aug 16, 1963) with one cap for Holland — earned as substitute for Ruud Gullit in the 2-2 draw against England at Wembley. Yet Koot had been called into the squad only at the last minute because of injuries. Joined PSV's senior squad from the youth section in 1984.

Edward LINSKENS. Defender. Aged 19 (born Nov 6, 1968). Under-21 intl; who was a member of the side which beat holders Spain in the European under-21 championship quarter-finals. Scored the vital away goal against Real Madrid in the Champions' Cup semi-finals.

Berry VAN AERLE. Midfield. Aged 25 (born Dec 8, 1962). with five caps. One of the great successes of the season. Van Aerle had never established himself at PSV when he was lent, along with Frans Van Rooy, to Belgian club Antwerp midway through last season. These two, under the managership of Georg Kessler, revived the Belgian club who swept out of the relegation zone into the top half of the table. A reluctant Van Aerle was brought back by PSV last summer because of injury problems. Kessler had converted him from rightback to midfield and he proved so outstanding for PSV that he was brought into the Dutch team for the all-important European championship visit to Poland after Jan Wouters went down with a knee injury. Van Aerle laid on both goals and has never looked back.

KEIR RADNEDGE

T MONEY Y SPENT

John VELDMAN. Midfield. Aged 20 (born Feb 24, 1968).

Gerald VANENBURG. Midfield. Aged 24 (born Mar 5, 1964) with 21 caps. Began with Ajax, where he was rated one of the most exciting young players ever seen in Holland. He was nicknamed Geraldhinha or the Little Brazilian because of his technical skills. But he did not make the expected progress and Ajax released him to PSV three years ago. At Eindhoven he has rediscovered his old confidence, to such effect that PSV are currently renegotiating his contract with the aim of keeping him for at least another four years.

Cemal YILMAZ. Midfield. Aged 19 (born Oct 1, 1968).

Frank ARNESEN. Midfield. Aged 31 (born Sep 30, 1956) with 52 caps (14 goals for Denmark. Began with Fremad Amager, joining Ajax Amsterdam at the age of 18, along with club-mate Soren Lerby. In 1981 moved to Valencia but spent much of his two years in Spain on the treatment table and Anderlecht took him to Belgium in 1981. Never really settled in Brussels, suffering more injury problems and falling out with coach Paul Van Himst. PSV signed him in the autumn of 1985 and he guided them to the Dutch championship. Made his intl debut in 1977 against Sweden.

Soren LERBY. Midfield. Aged 30 (born Feb 1, 1958) with 63 caps (ten goals) for Denmark. Key player, strong tackler, hard worker. Left Fremad Amager at 17 with Arnesen to join Ajax Amsterdam in Holland. Transferred for £600,000 to Bayern Munich in 1983 but his first season was upset by injury. Later established himself, both with Bayern and Denmark, as one of the most relentless midfielders in Europe. Agreed before the end of the 1985-86 season to join Monaco after the World Cup, even announcing his impending transfer the day after scoring two vital goals for Bayern Munich in a West German league victory over Kaiserslautern. After two weeks at Monaco however, he has told friends, he realised he had made the biggest mistake of his career. The money was great but he was out of the international mainstream. Thus he transferred to PSV last summer to help fill the gap left by Ruud Gullit's move to Milan. Typographer by trade who made his intl debut against the Irish Republic in May 1978. Lerby demonstrated his enormous stamina and enthusiasm during the last World Cup qualifiers when he was substituted early in the second half of an afternoon game against the Irish Republic in Dublin, so he could fly back to West Germany and play a cup-tie there that night for Bayern.

Wim DE RON. Midfield. Aged 18 (born Aug 23, 1969).

Wilhelmus (Willy) VAN DE KERKHOF. Midfield. Aged 36 (born Sep 16, 1951) with 61 caps for Holland. The one survivor of the 1978 UEFA Cup-winning side (which also included twin brother Rene). Has played more than 500 league matches with his original club, Twente Enschede, and with PSV — whom he joined from Twente along with Rene. Willy made his Holland debut in a 0-0 draw against Rumania in Rotterdam in June, 1974, and was a member of Holland's squad at the World Cup finals in West Germany a few weeks later. Four years later he was a key member of the Dutch team which lost 3-1 to Argentina in extra time in the 1978 World Cup Final in Buenos Aires (Twin brother Rene played 47 international matches).

Hans GILLHAUS. Striker. Aged 24 (born Nov 5, 1963) with two international appearances for his country. In the odd situation of not knowing when he made his official national team debut. Gillhaus appeared as a substitute for the last six minutes of the 8-0 win over Cyprus which was later erased from the European championship records because of a smoke bomb attack on the Cypriot goalkeeper. He then appeared as a substitute again, and scored twice, in the tie against Greece with which Holland closed out their European qualifying campaign. Uncertainty remains over whether the Cyprus match should be acknowledged in Dutch records. Gillhaus was a surprise signing by PSV last summer from Den Bosch. His form has been outstanding — particularly early in the season when team-mate Wim Kieft needed time to readjust after transferring back from Italy.

Roberto LANCKOHR. Forward. Aged 18 (born Aug 6, 1969).

Eric VISCAAL. Forward. Aged 20 (born March 20, 1968). Under-21 intl who scored one of the goals which beat holders Spain in the recent quarter-finals of the European under-21 championship.

Wim KIEFT. Striker. Aged 25 (born Nov 12, 1962) with 14 caps. PSV brought him home last summer from Italy, where he had played with limited success for Pisa and Torino. Kieft began with Ajax and won the Golden Boot as Europe's top league scorer in 1982 with 32 goals when he was still only 19. Made his Holland debut in the same match as Gullit and Rijkaard.

Louis VAN SCHIJNDEL. Forward. Aged 21 (born Jan 23, 1967).

Hallvar THORESEN. Forward/ midfield. Aged 30 (born April 12, 1957) with 50 caps for Norway. Began in Norway with Larvik and was signed by Twente Enschede in 1981. Moved to PSV two years later.

WILLY VAN DE KERKHOF... the past and the present at PSV.

WORLD SOCCER BIGGER THAN EVER ...NEXT MONTH

SPOTLIGHT ON EUROPEAN CUP FINALIST

TWENT THE W

BENFICA are back in the Champions' Cup final for the first time since 1968 when they lost 4-1 at Wembley to Manchester United.

But in all that time the reputation of the Eagles of Lisbon has suffered little. They have won the Portuguese league a record 27 times and the cup on a record 24 occasions.

There are three big clubs in Portugal: Benfica, FC Porto and Sporting Lisbon. And Benfica, whatever the impression created by Porto in their past glorious year, are the biggest of the three.

It's a reputation which owes not a little to British influence over the years. When Benfica shocked European football by winning the Champions' Cup in 1961 and 1962 it was partly thanks to the tactical and technical skills of the veteran Hungarian coach Bela Guttman – who had scrapped Benfica's 'modern' 4–2–4 style and reverted to Herbert Chapman's 'good old' WM.

Much more recently Jimmy Hagan has been a successful coach with Benfica and so, above all, has been John Mortimore. He guided Benfica to the league and cup double last season as a superb climax to his second spell in charge. But a new president and board had taken over during the season.

Complaints from some of the senior players that Mortimore worked them too hard were rated more important than Mortimore's success rate. So, less than 24 hours after the 2-1 cup final win over Sporting, Mortimore was out.

But long after the names of Hagan and Guttmann and Mortimore have been forgotten, Benfica fans will still talk about... Eusebio.

It is probably worth recalling that Portuguese football has changed over the past 25 years because of political change. Today Portuguese football is flooded with second-rate Brazilians — benefitting from a dual nationality pact between governments.

Under its terms Brazilian footballers do not 'count' as foreigners. But in the 1950s and 1960s Portuguese football was flooded with Africans, from the then Portuguese colonies such as Angola and Mozambique.

Eusebio, greatest 'Portuguese' footballer in history, came from Mozambique. So did midfield general Mario Coluna, Keeper Costa Pereira, centre-forward and captain Jose Aguas, as well as inside right Joaquim Santana, came from Angola.

It was Guttman who introduced Eusebio to the Benfica team in 1961. He was a reserve when Benfica went to France to face Santos of Brazil — inspired by Pele — in the famous Paris Tournament.

At half-time Benfica were losing 3-0. Guttman, with nothing to lose, sent on Eusebio. Benfica still lost, but Eusebio scored a spectacular hat-trick and overshone even Pele.

A year later Eusebio scored two cannonball goals in the 5-3 victory Benfica ran up against Real Madrid in the Champions' Cup final in Amsterdam. In 13 seasons he helped Benfica win the league seven times and the cup twice; he was European footballer of the Year in 1965; top scorer with nine goals in the 1966 World Cup finals; scorer of 38 goals in 46 internationals and the league's leading scorer seven times before knee trouble forced a "retirement" at 32.

He would probably have returned much sooner to Benfica's administrative staff but in 1974 he decided to accept a huge offer to play for two years in the doomed North American Soccer league.

It was said that Eusebio had been guaranteed 1.5 million dollars to sell his talents into the world of plastic grass and the shoot-out, and it took years for the Benfica faithful to forgive him. In 1977, when Eusebio returned to Benfica's Stade da Luz there were more whistles and jeers than applause. But that was more than ten years ago.

Background

Eusebio, after retiring from the US game, became a television soccer analyst back in Portugal. Now he is a member of the coaching staff — an awkward figure in the background at a time when many members fear the club has lost direction; that the £2 million-plus raised in the mid-1980s through sales of Glenn Stromberg to Italy and Fernando Chalana to Bordeaux, should have been spent on new stars instead of boosting stadium capacity to its current 120,000.

For all that, for all Porto's glory-grabbing globe-trotting, Benfica are back in the final of the Champions' Cup.

Benfica have ridden their luck. In the first round the Albanians of Partizani lost their heads and had four players sent off in the first leg in Lisbon — the tie was awarded to Benfica without a second leg being played; in the second round they scraped past the Danes of Aarhus on a 1-0 aggregate; and in the quarter-finals they managed only a 2-1 overall success against Anderlecht who had sacked their coach only nine days before the tie.

Now they have beaten Steaua, having played a Rumanian club only once previously in 30 years in Europe. That was in the 1982-83 UEFA Cup semi-finals, when they beat Universitatea Craiova on the

DITO... new generation at Benfica.

UP FINALISTS BENFICA BY KEIR RADNEDGE

ENTY YEARS SINCE E WEMBLEY DEFEAT

away goals rule.

Whether that is a good or bad omen depends who's side you are on. For example, Benfica also beat Craiova to reach the final. On the other hand, once in the final, they lost to Anderlecht...

THE COACH

TONI. Full name: Antonio Oliveira. Aged 41. Joined Benfica originally as an international midfielder in 1968, from Academica Coimbra. Played for 13 years, latterly as captain and then retired to become assistant to the club's string of renowned coaches — Lajos Baroti, Sven-Goran Eriksson, Pal Csernai, John Mortimore and Ebbe Skovdahl. At the end of last November Skovdahl — contracted from Brondby of Denmark only last summer — was fired after a 2-2 home draw against struggling Farense. Toni was appointed caretaker until the end of the season with the chance to make the job his own.

THE SQUAD

SILVINO Almeida Louro. Goalkeeper. Aged 29 (born March 5, 1959) with two caps. Signed in 1984 from Vitoria Guimaraes as prospective replacement for Bento — a status he achieved only after Bento broke a leg in training at the 1986 World Cup finals. Silvino, who began with Vitoria Setubal, made his intl debut in a goalless draw against Hungary in April, 1983.

Manuel Galrinho BENTO. Goalkeeper. Aged 39 (born June 25, 1948) with 63 caps. Bento will be 38 on June 25. Began with minor club Riachense, moved up with Barreirense and was signed by Benfica in 1972. Youth international who is now club captain and has also captained the national team. Bento has a reputation for inconsistency, largely founded on a couple of mistakes in Benfica's repeated Champions' Cup clashes with Liverpool. Was Portugal's first choice keeper for almost a decade until he broke a leg in training at the 1986 World Cup finals. Bento was one of the ringleaders of the pay revolt which saw the Portuguese squad threaten a World Cup finals strike.

Antonio Dias GRACA. Goalkeeper. Aged 24 (born January 26, 1964). Former Brazilian youth international.

Jose Manuel Mota DELGADO. Goalkeeper. Aged 30 (born October 30, 1957). B intl. Joined Benfica eight years ago from Portimonense but has played only a handful of matches.

Manuel EURICO Goncalves. Defender. Aged 21 (born March 21, 1967). Under-21 international.

Antonio Augusto da Silva VELOSO. Left back/midfield. Aged 31 (born January 31, 1957) with 15 caps. Joined Benfica in 1980 from Beira-Mar. A knee injury in the middle of season 1983-84 upset his chances of appearing (apart from one game as a substitute) in the European finals. Until that injury he had been unanimously regarded as the top player in the league that season.

DITO. Full name: Eduardo Jose Gomes Camessele Mendes. Sweeper. Aged 26 (born January 18, 1962) with 17 caps. Current captain of Portugal and one of the few Benfica players not boycotting the national team as the row over the 1986 World Cup pay revolt simmers on. Dito began with minor club Gil Vicente and then made his name with Sporting Braga. Joined Benfica two years ago.

Jose Carlos MOZER. Centre back. Aged 27 (born September 19, 1960) with 18 caps for Brazil. Signed last summer from Flamengo as Benfica's answer to Geraldao, the Brazilian tour captain in Europe last year, who joined FC Porto.

SAMUEL Antonio Silva Tavares Quina. Centre-back. Aged 27 (born August 3, 1960). Under-21 international. Once one of Portugal's most promising players but whose career has not developed quite as well as had been hoped. Discovered in Portuguese Guinea, where he was born in Bissau.

EDMUNDO J. Pascual. Defender. Aged 24 (born December 13, 1963). Under-21 international.

Antonio M. FONSECA. Defender. Aged 23 (born January 30, 1965). Youth intl.

Antonio Jesus Henriques OLIVEIRA. Centre-back. Aged 29 (born June 8, 1958) with four caps. Called into Portugal's 1986 World Cup finals squad as a late replacement for Sporting's Pedro Venancio, who suffered a knee injury in the last game of the season. Oliveira joined Benfica from Maritimo of Funchal (Madeira) five years ago after top centre-back Humberto Coelho suffered a serious knee injury.

ALVARO Monteiro Magalhaes. Leftback. Aged 27 (born January 3, 1961) with 19 caps. Joined Benfica from Academico Coimbra in 1981. Recovered from a serious leg injury in the autumn of 1983 to play a notable role in Portugal's run to the semi-finals of the European championship the following year. Has since lost his national team place to Inacio of Porto.

CARLOS Eduardo Deus PEREIRA. Defender. Aged 25 (born December 25, 1962). Under-21 intl. Snatched as a 15-year-old from the youth squads of neighbours and deadly rivals Sporting.

LUIS MARIANO Ventura. Midfield. Aged 19 (born December 23, 1968). One of Benfica's most promising youngsters.

AUGUSTO M. dos Santos. Midfield. Aged 23 (born February 8, 1965). Under-21 international.

SHEU Han. Midfield. Aged 34 (born August 3, 1953) with 23 caps. Great servant of the club for whom he has played now for nearly 18 years. Along with the Bento and Chalana a survivor of Benfica's Liverpool defeat ten years ago.

Adelino Morais NUNES. Midfield. Aged 27 (born September 10, 1960) with seven caps. Signed in 1984 from Vitoria Setubal. Made his intl debut as a substitute in a 4-0 defeat by Brazil in Coimbra in June 1983.

ELZO Aloisio Coelho. Midfield. Aged 27 (born January 22, 1981) with 12 caps for Brazil. Joined Benfica last year from Atletico Mineiro. The best recommendation is that he is highly rated by Falcao, having made his name with the way he stepped into the gap at Mineiro left by the departure of Toninho Cerezo for Roma in 1983. Went on to keep Falcao out of the World Cup side last year.

VALDO Candido Filho. Midfield. Aged 24 (born January 12, 1964) with 11 caps for Brazil. Formerly with Gremio of Porto Alegre. Was called late into Brazil's World Cup finals squad in 1986 because of injury to Toninho Cerezo but did not play. That meant he was free to organise midfield for the Olympic squad in last year's Seoul qualifying tournament in Bolivia where he scored Brazil's opening goal in their 2-1 victory over hosts in the last, decisive match. Did not finally make his senior intl debut until the 1-1 Wembley draw against England. Joined Benfica at the start of the year after protracted wrangling with Gremio. Benfica had vainly hoped to register him in time to play in the European semi-finals.

WANDO. Full name: Geovanio Bonfim Sobrinho. Midfield/ forward. Aged 25 (born March 13, 1963). Brazilian whom Benfica signed in 1984 after he had been brought to Portugal two years earlier by Sporting Braga.

Antonio M. PACHECO. Midfield. Aged 21 (born December 1, 1966) with caps. Revelation of the season — just in time too, since Benfica sold their best midfielder, veteran Carlos Manuel, to Sion of Switzerland at the end of December.

TUEBA Menayane. Midfield. Aged 25 (born March 13, 1963) with 11 caps for his home country, Zaire.

HAJRY Redoune. Midfield. Aged 24 (born March 5, 1964).

RUI PEDRO. Midfield. Aged 21 (born October 2, 1966).

Paulo Jose Vieira PADINHA. Midfield. Aged 25 (born November 9, 1962) Former youth intl.

Jose Antonio Goncalves TO. Forward. Aged 24 (born January 22, 1964).

Nilton Santos DAMAS. Forward. Aged 24 (born July 28, 1963). Youth international.

Jose RUI Lopes AGUAS. Forward. Aged 28 (born April 28, 1960) with five caps. Son of the Angolan-born Jose Aguas, who was captain and centre-forward of Benfica's Champions' Cup-winning teams of 1961 and 1962. Rui Aguas was born in Lisbon, began (naturally) with Benfica but was allowed to leave after finding his father's reputation more of a hindrance than a help. His fine form with Portimonense on the Algarve earned him a Portugal debut and Benfica bought him back in 1985. Scored the two semi-final goals which sunk Steaua.

DIAMANTINO. Full name: Manuel Fernandes Miranda. Winger. Aged 28 (born August 3, 1959) with 22 caps. Never a regular member of the national team but a regular member of the squad. Had played only for Vitoria Setubal before Benfica signed him as an 18-year-old in 1977. His most prolific season was 1983-84 when he was Benfica's second top scorer with 19 goals, including a hat-trick against Espinho. Played for Portugal in the 1984 European championship finals.

Mats MAGNUSSON. Centre-forward. Aged 24 (born July 10, 1963) with 15 caps for Sweden. Good in the air but cumbersome on the ground. Began his career with Malmo and made his intl debut in a 1-1 draw with Mexico in Malmo in August 1984. Was then sold to Swiss club Servette but returned to Malmo in 1986 for £200,000 and joined Benfica last autumn.

Francisco Carlos CHIQUINHO. Forward/midfield. Aged 24 (born April 26, 1963). Brazilian.

Fernando Albino CHALANA. Winger. Aged 29 (born February 2, 1959) with 41 caps. Now back with Benfica after three sad years at Bordeaux. Chalana is one of the most gifted Portuguese players for years. He was a teenage wonder with Benfica and starred in the 1984 European championships when Portugal reached the semi-finals. Bordeaux then paid £1 million for him but Chalana played only a handful of games because of injury. Has struggled to regain fitness since returning last autumn to Benfica.

EURO-STATISTICS

EURO-STATISTICS

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Semi-finals, 1st legs (April 6)
Real Madrid 1 (Hugo Sanchez 6 pen)
PSV Eindhoven 1 (Linskens 19)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 90,000. **Ref:** Courtney (Eng)

Madrid: Buyo — Chendo, Tendillo, Sanchis, Camacho (Gallego 73) — Michel, Martin Vazquez, Jankovic (Llorente 73), Gordillo — Butragueño, Hugo Sanchez.

PSV: Van Breukelen — Gerets, R. Koeman, I. Nielsen, Heintze — Vanenburg, Van Aerle, Linskens, Lerby — Kieft, Arnesen (Janssen 31).
MADRID were below their best, PSV somewhere approaching theirs. That made the result an excellent reflection of a match which never quite reached the heights promised by the runaway leads both clubs had built up in their own domestic championships. Real started briskly and were ahead in six minutes after Hugo Sanchez was tripped by Dutch goalkeeper Van Breukelen. The Mexican got up to drive the penalty home. But Madrid's anxiety for goals left them exposed at the back and a beautifully-judged pass from veteran Frank Arnesen opened the way for Edward Linskens to prod home a 19th-minute equaliser. Madrid did have their chances. Ivan Nielsen almost put through his own goal and Eric Gerets cleared off the line from Sanchez. The longer the match went on the better-organised PSV looked. Several of their counter-attacks threatened trouble and Buyo made one good save from a drive by Soren Lerby. Madrid's Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker said: "That was our worst game this year. A pity it had to be in the European Cup..."

Steaua Bucharest 0
Benfica 0
Att: 35,000. **Ref:** Tritschler (WG)

Steaua: Liliac — Iovan, Petrescu (Cojocaru 78), Belodedici, Bumbescu, Stoica, Lacatus, Popescu, Piturca, Hagi, Balint (Balan 64).

Benfica: Silvino — Veloso, Dito, Alvaro, Mozer, Elzo, Chiquinho (Chalana 70), Pacheco (Magnusson 70), Aguas, Sheu, Diamantino.
STEAUA made the expected early running, with veteran skipper Stoica shooting narrowly wide after seven minutes. Until the closing minutes it was Benfica who came closer to scoring than the Rumanians. Portuguese 'discovery' Antonio Pacheco was not far off in the eighth, 36th and 68th minutes as well as Diamantino in the 43rd. Steaua's desperation brought them back into the action in the closing minutes. Substitute Constantin Cojocaru was foiled by goalkeeper Silvino in the 88th and 89th minutes. Steaua coach Anghel Iordanescu said: "We played at about 50 per cent of our ability. In Lisbon Benfica will have to attack and then maybe we shall have a better chance to show what we can do."

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Semi-finals, 1st legs (April 6)
Marseille 0
Ajax Amsterdam 3 (Rob Witschge 12 and 42, Bergkamp 89)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Igna (Rum).

Marseille: Bell — Le Roux (Mura 64), Domergue, K. Förster, Lowitz, Genghini, Fall (Diallo 46), Giresse, Papin, Pele, Allofs.

Ajax: Menzo — Blind, Verlaat, Larsson, Winter, Wouters, Van't Schip, Scholten, Bosman (Bergkamp 84), Muhren, Rob Witschge.
HOLDERS Ajax underlined their potential to become the first club ever to win the Cup-winners' Cup two years in succession. They were much too fast, skilful and confident for the Frenchmen. It took Ajax only 12 minutes to take the lead as skipper John Van't Schip laid on the chance for Rob Witschge to head them in front. Witschge increased the lead in the 42nd minute when he shot home another pass from Van't Schip. Marseille brought on an extra attacker in Diallo at the start of the second half but without seriously worrying Ajax keeper Menzo. At the other end the Dutchmen increased their lead in the last minute when substitute Bergkamp ran away to shoot No 3 past the on-rushing Cameroon keeper, Joseph-Antoine Bell.

Mechelen 2 (Ohana 7, Den Boer 83)
Atalanta 1 (Stromberg 9)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 11,700. **Ref:** Soriano Aladren (Sp).

Mechelen: Preud'homme — Emmers, Rutjes, Clijsters, Hofkens, Sanders, Benfeld (De Mesmaeker 73), E. Koeman, De Wilde, Den Boer, Ohana.

Atalanta: Piotti — Rossi, Gentile, Fortunato, Barcella, Progna, Stromberg (Consonni 87), Nicolini, Bonetti (Salvadori 72), Icardi, Garlini.
MECHELEN's progress had held out the prospect of brothers winning European medals in different competitions in the same season — Ronald Koeman with PSV Eindhoven and brother Erwin with Mechelen. That prospect suffered a setback when the Belgians struggled to beat Atalanta. The Italian second division outfit were the better team for long stages of the match — even though Mechelen benefitted from an early strike by Israel forward Eli Ohana. Two minutes later Atalanta swept level with a goal from Sweden midfielder Glenn Peter Stromberg, created by Eligio Nicolini. Mechelen did snatch a late winner through Piet Den Boer, but their coach, Aad de Mos, admitted: "Atalanta are the best team we have played in Europe this season."

UEFA CUP

Semi-finals, 1st legs (April 6)
Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Alois Reinhardt 61)
Werder Bremen 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Germanakos (Gr).

Bayer: Vollborn — Seckler, A. Reinhardt, Hörster, Hinterberger, Schreier (Götz 62), Rolff, Tita (Buncol 76), Täuber, Waas, Cha.

Bremen: Reck — Bratseth, Sauer, Borowka, Otten — Hermann, Wolter, Votava — Riedle, Neubarth, Ordenewitz (Meier 69).
LEVERKUSEN, backed by the giant Bayer chemicals company, clearly have the right formula. This was their 13th undefeated match in Europe, breaking a record set by Valencia back in 1962. The winning goal was scored by Alois Reindhardt, shooting home from the edge of the penalty box after collecting a poor clearance by Miroslav Votava. Bremen might have equalised late in the game. Meier, Neubarth and Riedle all wasted chances. But Bremen, the West German league leaders, were none too pleased about the yellow cards picked up by Neubarth and Borowka, which meant both key men would miss the second leg.

Club Brugge 2 (Ceulemans 42, Gallart og 74)
Español 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** D'Elia (It).

Brugge: Vande Walle — Kimoni, Tew, Van Wijk, Beyens, Leo Van der Elst (Rosenthal 64), F. Van der Elst, Creve, Ceulemans, Degryse, Brylle (Querter 82).

Español: Melendez — Job, Urquiaga, Gallart, Miguel Angel, Soler, Zubillaga, Orejjuela (Lauridsen 52), Inaki, Valverde, Alonso (Losada 76).
VETERAN Jan Ceulemans was the Brugge hero as they struggled to reach their first European final in a decade. Ceulemans exchanged passes with Denmark's Kenneth Brylle to open the scoring. Then it was his pursuit which provoked Jose Gallart into conceding an own goal when he lobbed the ball back over Melendez's head. Espanol's best chance came in the 50th minute when Gallart's shot strush Vande Welle on the shoulder and then rebounded off the bar.

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Semi-finals, second legs (April 20)
Benfica 2 (Rui Aguas 22 and 23)
Steaua Bucharest 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 120,000. **Ref:** Vautrot (Fr)
Benfica 2-0 on agg

Benfica: Silvino — Veloso, Dito, Alvaro, Mozer, Chiquinho, Diamantino, Antonio Pacheco (Chalana 88), Elzo, Magnusson (Sheu 73), Rui Aguas.

Steaua: Liliac — Iovan, Ungureanu, Stoica, Bumbescu, Beloddedici, Hagi, Lacatus, Popescu (Majaru 71), Piturca, Balint (Balan 59).
BENFICA reached the final for the first time since 1968, after taking the initiative right from the start. A tough time was promised when there were six free kicks for fouls in the first three minutes. But despite Steaua's crowding tactics in midfield, Benfica went ahead in the 22nd minute. Brazilian defender Jose Mozer got his head to a corner and Rui Aguas headed past Gheorge Liliac. Aguas, son of Benfica's captain in the European victories of 1961 and 1962, headed a second, decisive goal 11 minutes later from a Diamantino free kick. Just before half-time Steaua came out of their defensive shell for Lacatus to hit a post. But long before the end Benfica were already sure of their place in Stuttgart with the electronic scoreboard signalling: "Final: Benfica v PSV Eindhoven." Diamantino and Brazilian World Cup man Elzo were outstanding in midfield for Benfica. Coach Toni said: "This was a great night for Portuguese football." Eusebio, a member of the great Benfica side of the 1960s and now an assistant coach, wept with joy. Steaua coach Anghel Iordanescu said: "If Benfica play the final as they played tonight, then they will be champions of Europe."

PSV Eindhoven 0
Real Madrid 0
Att: 26,500. **Ref:** Galler (Swz).
PSV on away goals: 1-1 agg

PSV: Van Breukelen — Gerets, Van de Kerkhof (Koot 65), Nielsen, Heintze — Vanenburg, Van Aerle, Linskens, Lerby — Kieft, Gillhaus (Arnesen 74).

Madrid: Buyo — Chendo, Tendillo (Llorente 65), Sanchis, Gordillo, Michel, Gallego, Jankovic, Martin Vazquez (Santillana 75), Butragueno, Sanchez.
PSV won through to the final for the first time thanks to Linskens away goal in Madrid two weeks earlier and despite the absense of suspended Ronald Koeman. PSV survived intense and skilful Madrid pressure in the second half when keeper Van Breukelen made several excellent saves — including one in particular from a spectacular overhead kick, typical of Hugo Sanchez. PSV who won the quarter-final against Bordeaux exactly the same way, came closest to scoring themselves when Lerby hit a post four minutes into the second half after Madrid failed to clear a Gerets throw-in. Vanenburg missed badly after a delightful sleight of foot in the 61st minute when clean through. After that it was all Madrid. But the style which had overcome Napoli, Porto and Bayern was not enough this time. Madrid's Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker, said: "My players are bitterly disappointed. If we played PSV times, I am sure we would not lose more than once or twice. But this was one of those occasions."

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Semi-finals, second legs (April 20)
Ajax Amsterdam 1 (Larsson 22)
Marseille 2 (Papin 65, Allofs 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 42,000. **Ref:** Kirschen (EG)
Ajax 4-2 on agg

Ajax: Menzo — Blind (Keizer 70), Wouters, Larsson, Verlaat, Winter, Van't Schip, Scholten, Bosman, Muhren, Rob Witschge.

Marseille: Stambouli — Couet (Regina 83), Passi, Förster, Lowitz, Diallo, Eyraud (Appriou 57), Giresse, Papin, Pele, Allofs.
Holders Ajax lost because they fell asleep in the second half — Sweden's Peter Larsson having shot them ahead in the 22nd minute after Marseille failed to clear a Rob Witschge cross. John Bosman, Larsson and Arnold Muhren — who also had a first-half effort cleared off the line by Lowitz — all came close for Ajax early in the second half. But then the Dutchmen relaxed and Jean-Pierre Papin, top scorer in the French league, broke away to equalise. That goal encouraged Marseille and Ajax survived several tense moments before Klaus Allofs, West Germany's European championship skipper, grabbed a last-kick winner for the visitors.

Atalanta 1 (Garlini 39 pen)
Mechelen 2 (Rutjes 56, Emmers 80)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Butenko (SU).
Mechelen 4-2 on aggregate

Atalanta: Piotti — Bonacina, Gentile, Fortunato, Barcella, Rossi (Cantarutti 67), Stromberg, Nicolini, Bonetti, Icardi (Compagno 80), Garlini.

Mechelen: Preud'homme — Emmers, Clijsters, Rutjes, Hofkens, Sanders, De Wilde (Jaspers 68), E. Koeman, De Ferm, De Mesmaeker (Den Boer 46), Ohana.
ATALANTA'S defeat ended prospects of a second division club winning a European trophy for the first time. Yet the Italians opened the scoring with a Garlini penalty after Geerd De Ferm put his elbow in the way of a cross from Andrea Icardi. Mechelen protested angrily before Garlini fired home. The Belgian outsiders changed tactics at the start of the second half, replacing defender Paul De Mesmaeker with forward Piet Den Boer. But though this proved important, the real turning point came five minutes after the interval when keeper Preud'homme pushed a Fortunato header onto a post. Had Atalanta gone further ahead then the tie would surely have been decided. Instead, six minutes later, Graeme Rutjes equalised. With ten minutes remaining rightback Marc Emmers joined a counterattack and collected the winner with a shot which bounced awkwardly beneath Piotti. Atalanta coach Emiliano Mondonico was generous in defeat, saying: "Mechelen are a better team. More experienced. They deserved to win."

EURO-STATISTICS

EURO-STATISTICS

UEFA CUP

Semi-finals, second legs (April 20)
Español 3 (Orejuela 10, Losada 61, Pichi Alonso 119)
Club Brugge 0
HT: 1-0. **90 min:** 2-0. **Att:** 43,000. **Ref:** Kohl (Aus)
Español 3-2 on agg after extra time

Español: Nkono — Job, Soler, Gallart, Urquiaga, Zubillaga (Zuniga 71), Valverde, Orejuela (Lauridsen 65), Pichi Alonso, Golobart, Losada.

Brugge: Vande Walle — Mamadou, Franky Van der Elst, Broos, Van Wijk, *Beyens, Leo Van der Elst (Rosenthal 65), Kimoni, Creve (Querter), Degrijse, Brylle. *Beyens sent off, 42 min.

ESPANOL Barcelona, poor relations in the Catalan capital, reached a European final for the first time. Brugge, who had reached the semi-finals thanks to a string of dramatic revivals, lost out this time — in extra time. Midfielder Diego Orejuela headed Español in front from a pass by veteran Pichi Alonso, the hero of the night. Brugge then hit more trouble in the 42nd minute when Luc Beyens was sent off for dissent. It was, thus, no surprise when Sebastian Losada — on loan, ironically, from Real Madrid — reached a Valverde cross to head Español level on aggregate. That took the tie into extra time when Alonso had the last word with virtually the last kick. Belgian keeper Vande Welle blocked a shot by Miguel Soler and Alonso snapped up the winner. By then Brugge were down to nine men, defender Tew Mamadou having limped off injured in the 115th minute.

Werder Bremen 0
Bayer Leverkusen 0
Att: 43,000. **Ref:** Lund Sorensen (Den)
Leverkusen 1-0 on agg

Bremen: Reck — Sauer, Kutzop, Bratseth (Schaaf 60), Wolter (Ordenewitz 46), Votava, Meier, Hermann, Otten, Riedle, Burgsmüller.

Leverkusen: Vollborn — Rolff, Seckler, Reindhardt, Cha, De Kayser, Falkenmayer, Buncol, Hinterberger, Waas (Feinbier 11; Götz 87), Täuber.

A DISAPPOINTING night for Bremen. The West German league leader's European dreams were thwarted by Leverkusen keeper Rüdiger Vollborn. He saved brilliantly early on from Michael Kutzop and Norbert Meier. In the closing minutes it was Bremen's turn to come under pressure and their keeper, Oliver Reck, saved superbly from Andrzej Buncol and Pierre De Kayser. Vollborn also made a spectacular late save to a close-range header from Meier. Bremen badly missed their suspended centre-forward, Frank Neubarth.

LEADING SCORERS

CHAMPIONS' CUP

4 goals: Michel (Real Madrid), Hagi (Steaua), Ferreri (Bordeaux), Madjer (Porto), McCoist (Rangers), Rui Aguas (Benfica).

3 goals: Gillhaus (PSV), Lacatus (Steaua), Hugo Sanchez (Madrid), Vervoort (Anderlecht), Wegmann (Bayern Munich), Van der Gijp, Sutter (Xamax Neuchatel), Novak, Hasek (Sparta Praha), Stojadinovoic, Kranjcar (Rapid Vienna), Sousa (Porto).

2 goals: Butragueño (Madrid), Iovan (Steaua), Pflügler (Bayern), Falco (Rangers), Larsen (Lillestrom), McGaughey (Linfield), Lundqvist (Aarhus).

1 goal: Sanchis, Jankovic (Madrid), Bölöni, Piturca (Steaua), Mozer, Nunes, Magnusson, Chiquinho (Benfica), Koeman, Van Aerle, Koot, Lerby, Linskens, Kieft (PSV), Toure, Zlatko Vujovic (Bordeaux), Durrant, Gough (Rangers), Nilis, Frimann, Gudjohsen (Anderlecht), Dorfner, Brehme, Matthäus, Eder, Wohlfarth (Bayern), Hermann, Lüthi (Xamax), Magalhaes (Porto), Olsen, Haberg, Sognaes (Lillestrom), Griga, Cabala, Chovanec, Musil, Skuhravy (Sparta), Theofanos Xiurupas (Omonia), Hires, Szeibert (MTK), Engqvist (Malmo), Lius, Kousa (Kuusysi Lahti), Alexiou, Kostikos (Olympiakos Piraeus), Tanju (Galatasaray), Baxter (Linfield), Beck, Bartram (Aarhus), Scholten, Theis (Jeunnse d'Esch), Mikhailichenko (Kiev), Francini (Napoli), Wilfurth, H. Weber (Rapid), Klememnz, Cyron, Iwan, Urban, Orzeszek (Gornik Zabrze).

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

6 goals — Paulinho Cascavel (Sporting Lisbon).

4 goals — Allofs, Papin (Marseille), Ohana (Mechelen), Sealy (Sporting).

3 goals — Garlini, Diallo, Giresse (Marseille), Rutjes, Emmers, Hofkens, De Wilde (Mechelen), Rijkaard, Blind, Winter, Stapleton, Muhren, Bosman, Bergkamp (Ajax), Progna, Stromberg (Atalanta), Fimian, Weber, Maissen (Young Boys), Zigmantovich, Kisten, Gotsmanov, Derkach (Minsk), Kallio (RoPs), Houtman, Duilio (Sporting), Bushati, Jera, Pashaj, Vukatana, Rragami, Fakja (Vllaznia), Tsimbos, Marinakis, Haralambidis, Persias (OFI), De Roode (Den Haag), Loren, Gajate, Beguiristain (Real Sociedad), Alexandersson, Arvidsson (Kalmar), Bein, Laubinger, Okonski, Dittmer, Kroth, Kaltz (Hamburg), McDowell (St Mirren), Marko, Roscher, Pezzey, Linzmayer (Tirol), Boye (Aalborg), Tuncay (Genclerbirligi), Caskey (Glentoran), Kaspar, Medgyes, Pavlik (Streda), Aristodelus (Limassol), Sirakov, Vulic (Vitosha Sofia), Heredi, Rostas (Ujpest Dozsa), Roger, Williams (Merthyr), Bursac (Hajduk).

UEFA CUP

6 goals — Brylle (Brugge), Saravakos (Panathinaikos), Kovacs (Honved).

5 goals — Ceulemans (Brugge), Elkjaer (Verona).

4 goals — Riedle, Neubarth (Werder Bremen), Elstrup (Feyenoord), Mill (Borussia Dortmund), Tuce (Velez Mostar).

3 goals — Piñeda (Español), Leo Van der Elst (Brugge), Schreier (Leverkusen), Sauer (Bremen), Vlachos (Panathinaikos), Di Gennaro (Verona), Dickel (Dortmund), Hoekstra (Feyenoord), Serena (Internazionale), Fodor (Honved), Shengelia (Tbilisi), Borodyuk (Moscow Dynamo), Aaltonen (TPs), Mostovoi (Moscow Spartak), Alessio (Juventus).

2 goals — Orejuela, Pichi Alonso, Valverde (Español), Rolff (Leverkusen), Ordenewitz, Burgsmüller (Bremen), Beyens (Brugge), Antoniou (Panathainaikos), Dostal (Vitkovice), Lineker (Barcelona), Tirlea (Sportul), Altobelli (Inter), Mitchell (Feyenoord), Kipulu, Caio (Vit. Setubal), Ruci, Kista (Flamurtari), Fitos (Honved), Sulakvelidze (Tbilisi), Rocheteau, Marcico (Toulouse), Sturrock, Clark (Dundee Utd), Christensen (Brondby), Fairclough (Beveren), Virdis (Milan), Vermelinho (Chaves), Laudrup, Cabrini (Juventus), Radovanovic, Cvetkovic (Red Star Belgrade), Nuta (Victoria Bucharest), Rodionov, Pasulko (Moscow Spartak).

1 goal — F. Van der Elst, Degrijse (Brugge), Schaaf, Wolter (Bremen), Hörster, Götz, Reinhardt, Cha, Buncol, Falkenmayer, Tita (Bayer Leverkusen), Losada, Inaki, Golobart, Zubillaga, Lauridsen (Español), etc.

EUROPEAN FOR

PROTASOV

by GREGOR TASSIE

ONE of the principal threats to the Soviet Union's rivals in the European Championships this summer will be the outstanding young striker Oleg Protasov now with Kiev Dynamo.

For, in his short career, Protasov's goalscoring consistency ranks with the best in the world beside Van Basten, Lineker and Butragueno. It is a long time since the Soviets have produced such a goalscorer.

Protasov is a typical European central striker with pace, close control, a fine accurate shot and the essential gift of being in the right place at the right time. His scoring record is remarkable in a Soviet league never known for high scoring.

In time, Protasov is bound to exceed Blokhin's record of 211 goals, yet his achievement is even more notable because everything so far has been attained playing for a club never renowned for success. Dnepr from the industrial city of Dnepropetrovsk always played second fiddle to the other Ukrainian clubs in Kiev and Donestk.

Due to the vision of coach Vladimir Yemets, a special football school was set up in 1975 which was to provide the base for outstanding players such as Kiev's Demianenko, Litovchenko and of course Protasov. It was here that the young player's talents along with Yemet's coaching skill that saw Protasov develop into a rare talent.

He played his first league game as a substitute on the 25th of September, 1982 and three matches later, scored his first goal against Shaktyor Donetsk. His first hat-trick was to follow a year later by which time he had gained the notice of Valery Lobanovsky who chose Protasov to replace the great Blokhin in a friendly match in Moscow between two Soviet national selects. Having come on, he proceeded to score two goals in a 4-2 victory for the first eleven.

In May 1983, Protasov was also involved in the Mexico World Youth Cup and here he played against one of this summer's opponents Marco Van Basten. Holland beat the Soviets 3-2. Protasov scored one against Van Basten's two — a result he will obviously want to reverse next month.

The year 1983 saw Dnepr win for the first time in their history the Soviet championship. It was an exciting finish with the last game being at home to their chief rivals Moscow Spartak and Dnepr winning 4-2. Protasov didn't score that day but he did contribute a modest 7 goals in that campaign and had established himself.

The first international of 1984 saw Protasov make his full debut against West Germany in Hanover in a 2-1 defeat. He was picked for consecutive matches in Finland and for the friendly at Wembley in June — when Protasov came onto the field with just three minutes remaining and scoring within a minute, hitting in the rebound from a Blokhin shot giving the Soviet Union a 2-0 victory.

In the first European Cup matches against the Turks from Trabzonspor and the Bulgarians of Levski Spartak he failed to score and Dnepr went out of the Cup on penalties to Bordeaux in the quarter-finals. But 1985 was to be Protasov's year — as he scored an incredible 35 league goals, breaking the 35 year old record of Moscow Spartak's Nikita Simonyan of 34 goals. To this he added another eight international strikes and four UEFA Cup goals.

Once again, however, he lost out internationally to Van Basten, who scored 37 goals for Ajax, while Protasov became the first Soviet player to receive the Silver Boot in Paris.

Protasov's international goals were particularly important for the Soviet Union in the 1986 World Cup qualifiers. Against the Swiss in Moscow he scored the first two strikes in a 4-0 win, which he followed up with goals in Copenhagen (a 4-2 defeat) and the winning goal against the Danes in Moscow thus ensuring that the Soviets went to the finals in Mexico along with Denmark.

The World Cup was not successful for Protasov, who lost his place to the brilliant Igor Belanov. He played just one game against Canada and had a solitary chance, a difficult header well saved by the keeper and was substituted. Then he was accused of developing a "superstar" mentality and not playing well enough for his club.

The truth was that he found the pressure too much and he wasn't getting the service he previously got.

Opposing defenders knew his weaknesses better, although he did score 17 league goals plus two fine goals against PSV Eindhoven in the UEFA Cup.

At the end of 1986 he married Natalia Lemeshko, daughter of a famous football coach and, whether coincidence or not, found a resurgence of form in 1987. Dnepr were back challenging for the title along with Spartak.

Protasov scored the winning goals in two victories over Kiev and led the scoring table. With Belanov injured for most of the season, he won his place back in the national team, playing in all nine matches, scoring twice.

Some of his efforts were spectacular. For one he received the ball in his own half, dribbled past four defenders and tapped it home after beating the keeper. Protasov also became a playmaker starting moves in midfield positions.

In the vital home match versus France he laid on the pass for Mikhailichenko's equalizing goal. Dnepr finished second to Moscow Spartak in the championship and Protasov was top scorer with 18 goals.

However, in the last two months of the championship controversy reigned over the press statement allegedly made by the Dnepr manager, Zhizdik. He was reported as saying that he was appalled at the fact that his three top players including Protasov would be playing for Kiev next season.

The furore which ensued led to supporters calling the three players "traitors".

Protasov replied in a newspaper interview, giving his version of the transfer by saying that no approach had been made by Kiev. The fact was that his higher education was completed and now he would have to serve "either in the Soviet Army or the police which meant the continuation of his football career in an army or a Dynamo club..."

Due to his longterm relationship with the many Kiev players in the U.S.S.R. squad and the greater potential available, he along with his clubmate Litovchenko made themselves available to the Kiev.

The Soviet federation duly gave their approval to the transfers at the end of 1987.

Protasov was voted Player of the Year by Soviet sports journalists at the turn of the year at the same time as he was touring in Austria with his new clubmates. With Oleg Blokhin moving to Austria, Protasov is almost a straight replacement for him and with Kiev's midfield depth, he can be expected to further boost his goals tally and perhaps become the record goalscorer in Soviet history.

Before that, he has in his sights the European championships and revenge over Van Basten and the Dutch side whom the Soviets face in their first match in Dusseldorf.

Protasov's five goals in Athens and West Berlin for the Soviet team against Greece and Argentina greatly underlines the fact that he will be a major threat to any team this summer in West Germany.

FENERBAHCE HIT SLUMP

TURKEY

FENERBAHCE have hit a bad patch in Turkey and just cannot seem to win in either the league or the cup.

In the league, they are seventh with 44 points. And in the Cup, they have failed to reach the quarter-finals after a 5-1 home thrashing by Sakaryaspor at home following a 2-1 away win.

Bad results have seen gates slump — if Fenerbahce were a company, they would be bankrupt at present.

People used to say a political party under the name of Fenerbahce would easily win elections. Not any more.

And the fans are furious. After the 5-1 home defeat, many stayed in the ground to protest.

An angry bus driver protested at the defeat by refusing to transport the Fenerbahce players.

Despite past fame and glory, Fenerbahce have been badly managed for the last couple of years. Their most recent success was in 1986.

Under Yugoslav coach Veselinovic, they were at their peak when winning the double, and in the European Cup they eliminated Bordeaux of France.

But surprisingly, Veselinovic then left when promised bonuses were not paid. The following season, there were changes in management and a wealthy president was found.

It was thought that Tahsin Kaya, a famous building contractor, could easily finance the club. He poured in money but managed the club badly.

In just two years, four managers (Hungarian Kalman Meszoly, Yugoslavian Stankovic, Yilmaz Yuceturk and lately Pal Csernai) were tried.

Power behind the club management was said to be contolled by veteran Semih Bayulken. For the last 30 years, he has been a go-between among the opposition groups.

This time his group firmly opposed Tahsin Kaya. He supported the governer of Kadikoy, Osman Nizlan, for the presidency.

RWARD CENTRE

VOLLER

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

WEST GERMAN hopes of a European Championship triumph rest on the slender shoulders, or strictly speaking on the damaged body of Rudi Völler.

Millions of German fans are now crossing their fingers that their most dangerous striker will be fully fit by the time the final tournament gets under way in their country in June.

"Rudi Völler is the best centre forward in Europe — when he is fit," says Franz Beckenbauer, the record capped German footballer and now national team chief.

Völler is following the tradition of fine German centre forwards like Uwe Seeler (43 goals in 72 internationals), hailed as the greatest, and his successor Gerd Müller, the scorer of an incredible 68 goals in 62 appearances in national colours, certainly the most prolific.

Völler boasts 45 internationals in which he hit 25 goals, but there would have been many more if his career hadn't been dogged by a plethora of injuries which continually interrupted his seasons and at one time even threatened to put him out of the game.

He has had operations on the left hernia and on a thigh and recently he had to seek advice from specialists as to any further treatment, since the right hernia is giving him cause for concern.

Famous

Rudolf "Rudi" Völler was born on April 13, 1960 in Hanau, a market town some 11 miles from Frankfurt and famous as the home of the Grimm brothers the world famous and acclaimed writers of fairy tales.

And certainly, Völler's footballing career is nothing short of a fairy story. He joined the local club the TSV 1860 Hanau where he was coached by his father Kurt, then in charge of the youth section. Subsequently the neighbouring and higher grade Kickers Offenbach took him on, before 1860 Munich made them an offer which neither Offenbach, nor Völler could resist; in 1982 he left Munich and the second division having signed for Werder Bremen.

He made an immediate impact in the Bundesliga for in his first season he became the league's top scorer, Footballer of the Year and celebrated his international debut against Northern Ireland.

He is in fact one of only five players who accomplished the double of Footballer of the Year and Bundesliga leading scorer in the same season.

The others were Uwe Seeler, Gerd Müller, Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and last term Uwe Rahn.

But sadly for Rudi during his five years there, Bremen did not win a trophy, though they finished three times runners up in the Bundesliga and he scored in all 106 league goals for them. And so he decided to seek new pastures abroad.

Already in 1984 Fiorentina tempted him with a salary of £333,000 net a year, plus win bonuses, free accommodation and a super Italian car.

Yet, Völler, persuaded to stay with financial backing from sponsors, was obviously happy with a new contract and kept turning down other similarly lucrative offers until last year.

When AS Roma bid £2.2 million for the centre forward with the goal touch neither he, nor Werder could say no.

Werder had obviously decided they weren't going to get as much money if his contract had expired, while they must have been also mindful of the threat from his recurring injuries.

It is in fact something of a mystery why Roma's emissaries did not question his fitness before paying out that hefty fee form him.

Following his first major operation on hernia in February 1986, Völler spent hardly five months in Italy when he had to undergo an operation on an infected thigh.

It is said that he has little confidence in the Italian surgeons. That is why he suddenly left Rome at the end of January without apparently telling the club!

He surfaced in Frankfurt and underwent physiotherapic treatment there. But the Italian Press was of course immediately suspicious of his motives. Corriere dello Sport had already complained, alluding to Karl-Heinz Rummenigge's problems at Inter-Milan: "Is there a secret about Völler's injuries? Or is there more to it than meets the eye. Has one of our top clubs bought another invalid?"

Völler's injuries and tribulations have for some time occupied more space in the media, than his playing performances. But as he says with some justification — "there are four daily sports papers in Italy, so naturally they all have to fill their pages somehow".

This may be unfortunate for him, but clearly only a fit and an in-form Rudi Voller is of any use to the Italians and to the German national side.

He is an intelligent striker, neither a "tank" like Seeler, nor a goal poacher like Müller, but a "playing" centre forward who can get goals from any position, or angle, or distance and often prepares the strike himself.

Now on his well-being rest the hopes of the hitherto most successful nation in the history of the European championships.

RUDI VÖLLER holds off a challenge from Sweden's Glen Hysen.

By Paul Newman

WEMBLEY is standing-by for one of the biggest fairy tale finals in the history of the FA Cup when Wimbledon, a non-League side just 11 years ago, take on the footballing aristocrats of Liverpool.

It is a scenario which would usually justify the tag 'romantic', but that is a word which is seldom used when talking about Bobby Gould's Wimbledon, football's version of the Bash Street Kids.

They have made few friends with their rugged no-nonsense style and although Britain traditionally loves a successful underdog, hot favourites Liverpool will command more support from the neutrals than usual.

But when Wimbledon step out on Wembley's hallowed turf on May 14th they will be fulfilling a dream which seemed beyond their wildest imagination when they made their debut in the Fourth Division in 1977.

The club with a name more synonomous with tennis rackets and strawberries and cream, first came to the nation's attention in 1975 when, as a Southern League outfit, they beat first division Burnley in the FA Cup before going out to Leeds after a fourth round replay.

Their part-time goalkeeper Dickie Guy became a national figure for saving a Peter Lorimer penalty and Wimbledon had seemingly enjoyed their '15 minutes of fame'.

But the success story has continued in dramatic style. Election to the Football League at the expense of Workington has been followed by a meteoric rise to the big time to the point where they actually led the First Division for a short period in their debut season in the top flight.

DONS' skipper DAVE BEASANT

Now comes a new high and journeymen professionals such as Alan Cork and Dennis Wise will be performing on soccer's greatest stage in front of a worldwide audience.

Although multi-million-pound Liverpool have the class and ability to sweep Wimbledon aside, they will have to work hard to do so and conquer the game's most controversial style. Many clubs have floundered by trying to beat the Wombles at their own game.

Bobby Gould said: 'We are not going to change our style because it's Wembley or Liverpool or an FA Cup final. We aren't going to change our power game because the media don't like it or because of the criticism we get from within the game. And you want to know why? Because the other teams don't like it and we are going to keep on stuffing it down their throats."

Liverpool would be best advised to concentrate on the things they do best, like the stunning wing play of John Barnes and the forward thrusts of Ray Houghton and Steve McMahon.

But, being the total professionals they are, Liverpool will no doubt be practicing headers to combat the long balls which will be aimed at Wimbledon's John Fashanu, the one man in the side who would command a large fee in the transfer market.

Many of the characters which 'make' Cup final day will be on the Londoners' side.

First there is Fashanu, a £125,000 signing from Millwall, who is now the target of several big clubs and on the verge of the England team. Nicknamed 'Fash the Bash' by the popular tabloids, mainly because of his own self-publicising instincts, he is a target man not afraid to use aggression and will provide a tough test for the elegant Alan Hansen.

Then there is Vinny Jones, a former hod carrier plucked from non-League Wealdstone, who has become one of the most controversial figures in the English game. His crude intimidation of opponents has overshadowed his midfield work-rate and he has been warned by his manager that he must clean up his act if he is to have a future as a professional.

The one Wimbledon player most deserving of a Final appearance is Alan Cork, who has played in every division with them since his free transfer from Derby in February 1978. Cork, 29, has made more than 300 appearances in Wimbledon colours, scoring a record 131 goals, and is enjoying a new lease of life playing wide on the right now his best days as a centre forward have gone.

What emphasises the vast difference between the finalists more than anything which will happen on the pitch is their proposed mode of transport down Olympic Way.

While Liverpool will follow the traditional pattern of journey from a nearby hotel in a luxury coach, Wimbledon plan to arrive in a mini-bus, landrover and a few cars!

It was this unconventional arrival for their semi-final against Luton which prompted a White Hart Lane gateman to refuse them entry to the Tottenham ground, believing they were a bunch of troublemakers. Some might say he was right!

Wimbledon will enjoy their day out but it is difficult to see them coming between Liverpool and a historic second League and Cup double in three years. Manager Kenny Dalglish has managed to erase the memory of Ian Rush with three simple swoops to his cheque book to produce possibly the best Anfield side of all time.

John Aldridge, Peter Beardsley and in particular John Barnes, who now looks a bargain at £900,000, have stepped in to add an extra dimension to Liverpool's play.

The FA Cup Final is always surrounded by magic and David v Goliath encounter increases the sense of expectation as the big day approaches. Bobby Gould watched just such an occasion last year when his old team Coventry, including many players he signed for them, beat Tottenham in a thriller.

At the time Gould looked a million miles from Wembley. But then he took over from Dave Bassett, who deserves much of the credit for Wimbledon's progress, and was sensible enough to keep the Wimbledon style going. He deserves his success, too.

GU
LIG

JOHN BARNES, almost everybody's Footballer of the Year in England, guided Liverpool within sight of an historic second League Championship and FA Cup Double.

The England winger's individual style has added a new dimension to a side generally acclaimed as one of the best to come off the Anfield production line.

Barnes dresses his destructive instinct with elegance, strikes swiftly yet never appears hurried. His rare ability was always there, of course, now he has the stage and the supporting cast.

He put on one of his finest performances just when Liverpool needed it. They went into their FA Cup semi-final against Nottingham Forest at Hillsborough, Sheffield, with their confidence a little shaken. Neighbours Everton had subjected them to their first League defeat of the season and so denied them a record 30th match unbeaten from the start of the season.

A week before the semi-final Liverpool met Forest in a League match at the City Ground and, despite John Aldridge's 70th minute penalty, lost 2-1. Forty-eight hours later, on Easter Monday, they dropped two more points in a remarkable clash with Manchester United that spilled over into a bitter exchange of words between the two managers.

United took the lead through England captain Bryan Robson after only three minutes but Liverpool rolled forward and two goals in a ferocious spell late in the first half tilted the match. Peter Beardsley equalised with familiar precision and Gary Gillespie was up to head his side in front.

The start of the second half was equally costly for United. Steve McMahon hammered a splendid third for Liverpool and United found themselves down to 10 men when Colin Gibson was sent off for a second bookable offence.

United substitute Norman Whiteside was rightly booked for a late lunge at McMahon and it seemed United, after that splendid opening, had been reduced to ruins.

Incredibly, though, the side that always manage to lift themselves against Liverpool, climbed back off their knees again and summoned a revival to earn a 3-3 draw. Robson's shot was deflected in and Gordon Strachan kept his nerve to slot in the equaliser.

There is no love lost between these two famous clubs and Whiteside was by no means the only offender out on the pitch. McMahon, too, gave glimpses of his less acceptable face. But the confrontation witnessed by a

UIDING GHT...

by DERICK ALLSOP

Liverpool's John Barnes... 'Player of the Year'

43,000 crowd and millions more on television that evening was child's play compared with the verbal collision in front of the media after the match.

United manager Alex Ferguson put into words what many have thought about Anfield as he was interviewed by a local radio reporter. At that point Liverpool player-boss Kenny Dalglish, holding his six-week-old daughter, walked past and said: "You might as well talk to my daughter. You'll get more sense out of her."

Ferguson turned on his fellow Scot with an angry response and there was a brief exchange of words before the United chief resumed his interview. Ferguson then told journalists: "The provocation and intimidation of Anfield is incredible. You need a miracle to win here, and I'm not getting at this particular referee.

"The sending off of Gibson was for kicking the ball away. It was stupid to get a booking for that. But I don't think he should have been booked for the actual tackle because McMahon was committing the same foul the whole afternoon.

"I can understand why clubs come away from here choking on their own vomit and biting their tongues knowing they have been done by the referee. When you lose it sounds like sour grapes, that's why nobody complains. But we got a result and I'm saying it. The whole intimidating atmosphere and the monopoly that Liverpool have enjoyed for so many years gets to them. It's very difficult to win here for that reason.

"At 3-1 we were dead and buried but we deserved to come back into it. Liverpool bottled it. Their nerve went. Apart from Kenny Dalglish's interruption, it's been a good afternoon."

Dalglish declared himself satisfied with referee John Kay's handling of the match — "I didn't think he had a bad game at all."

Ferguson and Dalglish must now satisfy the FA that their much publicised conflict does not warrant a charge of bringing the game into disrepute. Both have been instructed to give written explanations.

All of which capped an uncharacteristically erratic spell for Liverpool, scarcely the ideal preparation for the semi-final date with a Nottingham Forest side striving to book manager Brian Clough his first FA Cup Final appearance.

Forest went into the match lifted by good form and the news that Clough and his son Nigel, the team's centre-forward, would be staying with the club.

Forest chairman Maurice Howarth announced Clough senior would be signing a new contract and that the club would turn down a reported £1.5 million bid from Italian hopefuls Pisa for Clough junior.

The young Forest players pushed Liverpool into a fine contest but they couldn't contain the magnificent Barnes. He was brought down after 12 minutes and from the penalty Aldridge gave Liverpool the lead.

Early in the second half Barnes linked up with his international colleague Beardsley to destroy Forest's right side cover. Barnes' perfectly flighted cross was met by Aldridge on the volley and Liverpool were two up.

Forest snatched back a goal courtesy of Clough's alertness and Liverpool skipper Alan Hansen's carelessness, but at the end Dalglish's men were still on course for a second double in three seasons.

Down at the bottom of the First Division the relegation favourites were Watford, Oxford and Portsmouth, with Charlton hovering in a familiar play-off slot.

All season the competition at the top of the Second Division has been fierce and unpredictable. Aston Villa and Blackburn emerged from winter hostilities looking the best bets. Then both stumbled and up popped Millwall and Middlesbrough.

Blackburn stopped their slide with a 2-1 win at Swindon, both goals coming from Steve Archibald, the Scottish striker loaned out by Barcelona. That was some coup for Blackburn manager Don Mackay and he followed up by taking Ossie Ardiles on loan from Tottenham, registered the midfield player 10 minutes before the transfer deadline. Ardiles was injured on his debut, at Plymouth but may yet have an important contribution to make as the season reaches its climax.

Transfers coming up could include Norman Whiteside and Paul McGrath from Manchester United, and Young Player of the Year Paul Gascoigne from Newcastle United.

Northern Ireland international Whiteside and the Republic of Ireland's McGrath have put in transfer requests and United are ready to accept 'the right offers' when their quest for second place in the Championship is over, and replacements have been found.

There is simmering discontent in the Old Trafford dressing room and both Whiteside, refused a lengthy extension of his contract, and McGrath say they want to start afresh.

Gascoigne's midfield play has had scouts from all the top clubs trailing up to Newcastle and the 20-year-old has rejected a reported £3,000 a week to stay in the North-East. The general feeling is that he will follow the star trek to Anfield.

On the international front England flexed their muscles and tested their wit against European Championship group opponents Holland in a warm-up match at Wembley. Ruud Gullit lived up to his pre-match build-up and the majority of a 74,000 crowd gave him a standing ovation when he went off in the 63rd minute, carrying an injury.

By then he had inspired the Dutch revival after Gary Lineker had put England ahead.

JOHN TOSHACK has another year of his contract to run with Real Sociedad of San Sebastian. They would like to make it two. Toshack says a contract is something which exists between two people, and that if the club wants him to stay that year, then he will do so.

As to an extension, well, it's a matter of getting the present season out of the way and seeing to it that Real take enough points to make sure of qualification for the UEFA tournament, following their disappointing defeat in the final of the Spanish Cup by Barcelona.

The fact is that most of the major clubs in Spain would like Toshack as their manager, and when his agreement with Real Sociedad does come to an end, he will surely be in a position to pick and choose.

The tall Welshman, who once seemed so sure to take over as successor to Bill Shankly at Liverpool, the club for whom he scored and made so many goals, has virtually resurrected the little Basque club, with sheer force of will and ingenuity rather than money; because they haven't got any.

Not only that, they, like Athletic Bilbao, are prepared to sign only players from the Basque region. This will always mean that any manager starts the race with the equivalent of a ball and chain around his leg, though the weight of the ball will vary. Thus when Toshack arrived in San Sebastian in 1985, it was very heavy indeed.

After what he himself describes as two incredible years, in which they had won the league twice in succession and provided no fewer than half a dozen men to the Spanish World Cup. That, Toshack suggests, may have been where the trouble started. Spain did badly in the tournament, and anti-Basque feeling was engendered elsewhere in the country.

By the time Toshack came to San Sebastian, the Real team were a bleak parody of the splendid side who had dominated the championship — "The players dropped a lot in morale," says Toshack.

There followed three years "in which the side really started to go over the top and decline. It became mostly defensive; it had a terrible record for playing with everybody back, which really started to take people away from Atocha (Real's little ground), so when I arrived I had the job of trying to introduce younger players and trying to get them to play with a little more ambition.

"Basque people are generally regarded as a closed type of person, the character is not open. The players here . . . are a very introverted type of person, as well. I left them as it was, the same back four, we played with Satrustegui (the Spanish international centre-forward) up front and four midfielders. But Arconada (the famous goalkeeper) suffered a terrible injury in the first league game of the season, and didn't play all season."

That exacerbated Toshack's problems. He wasn't able to go out to buy a new goalkeeper beyond the Basque region and the only one he had was the young, inexperienced Gonzales, who was "so involved with his own game; it was natural."

Missing now was the calm authority of Arconada, his influence on the central defenders — "Arconada had always organised everything for them. I realised we had a communication problem."

To cope with this, he took Larranaga, then a midfield player, and the only one who "was a good talker on the field," and put him as a sweeper, behind two central defenders whom he had been encouraging, with some difficulty, to play further up the field. After that, it was all systems go and, says Toshack, a number of Spanish clubs are now adopting the same methods.

Last season, Real Sociedad won the Spanish Cup. This season, on their way to the final, they had an astonishing 4-0 win over Real Madrid in that same Bernabeu stadium where they came glumly to grief against Barcelona.

Speaking afterwards to Gary Lineker, I heard his view that the dullness of the game had been caused by the fact that Barcelona had decided to play Real at their own game. In other words, their much put-upon, likeable, but sadly depressive manager, Luis Aragones, decided that Barcelona too would counter-attack.

This made, I can assure you, for an appallingly drab game of horribly little colour or incident; other than the blue and white masses of the Real Sociedad fans. By contrast Barcelona brought only a few thousand fans to the other end of the ground, dispirited by the seemingly endless series of defeats at Nou Camp.

Last summer, Toshack was bold enough to sell one of his few major stars, the international left winger or midfielder, Lopez Ufarte. He was much criticised at the time, though he believed that in San Sebastian at least, if not in Spain at large, his reasons are now understood. The point was, he explains, that Lopez Ufarte had only a year of his contract to run, after which he would be a free agent.

What to do? Keep him, spurn a £250,000 offer from Atletico Madrid, go on paying his high wages all season, then lose him at the end of it? Or let him go; especially when there were so many young players knocking at the door of the first team, who had to be accommodated or sold? Toshack let him go.

The consequences have not been serious. All season, his team has been splendidly competitive, with several going into the Spanish international side. Alas, he could not lose them all. Toshack is virtually reconciled to losing his attacking left-back, Lopez Rekarte, whose contract comes to an end, this summer. But it's Jose Maria Bakero II and Beguiristain who are the worry.

Ideally, he says, these two young players and the centre-forward Loren, whom he converted from a defender, should be Real's strike force for years to come. All are still under a couple of years' contract, but offers for the first two, large offers, are in the wind, and the players know it. Offers from Italy included, which, as Toshack admits, Real could never match.

Can Real afford to turn them down? Especially, as Toshack says, when their youth scheme has to be a big one and when there is talk of building a new stadium.

DICE LO
AGAINS
IN GERM

WE MUST wait to see, now (thanks apparently to our own dear Minister of Sport) whether UEFA will allow any English clubs back into Europe at the end of the European Championship.

It seems more likely than ever to me that to use the European tournament as a criterion loads the dice cruelly against us, and that in these circumstances, perhaps we should forget any hope of returning to Europe in the foreseeable future.

The threat that, if England's fans misbehave in West Germany, the England team will be barred from the subsequent Nations Cup Championships is a great deal more logical, though not wholly fair, either.

The events which took place in the West End of London and at Wembley itself on the day of the game against Holland last March were shattering in their implications. I cannot remember, in the past, anything quite as bad happening in London itself on the occasion of an English match... which did not concern Scotland.

A brutal attack on three police officers by a rampaging mob of over a hundred louts, a subsequent attack on the two ambulancemen who, with great gallantry, came to the rescue of the police.

At Wembley Stadium itself, some of the nasty scenes which took place before the kick off were undoubtedly thanks to the ineptitude with which no announcement was made that the match would be all ticket. Gullitmania had struck, Wembley knew on Monday that the stadium was full; the Press agencies insist that they were told as much only on the Tuesday. Someone had blundered. At the moment of writing, I know not who, but for such a potentially costly error, heads surely deserve to roll.

After the game was over, a thousand England hooligans waited outside for the cohort of Dutch supporters, some 1300, which had been attending the match. A police charge dispersed them, and the Dutch got away unscathed. But they'll be spoiling for vengeance come next June in Dusseldorf, when some 30,000 of them are expected to spill across the border.

There are sinister tales about already of the way the Dutch are organising for the inevitable fray. Nor am I very sanguine about what will happen in Stuttgart when England play the Republic of Ireland, in their first match, given the recent horrifying events in Belfast, and the likely reaction of the right wing fringe among the England fans.

I have said before, and say again, that far from banning English clubs from the continent, the most rational corollary of what goes on would indeed be to ban the England team which, alas, through no earthly fault of its own, attracts psychopaths, hooligans, brawlers and extremists from all over the country. Since there still appears to be no way to keep them at home, or at least no way that the Government is likely to endorse, UEFA may well decide that an ounce of prevention is worth a ton of cure.

The horrors of Shaftesbury Avenue and of Wembley proved the authenticity of what I had learned from my own, reliable Deep Throat; that efficient police work, closed circuit television, had simply driven violence off the terraces, and out into the streets, where it was harder to control.

Back once again we come to the minatory words of Mr Justice Oliver Popplewell, who warned that if football were to continue to be the cause of violence, the only ultimate thing to do might be to ban it altogether. Shades of the Middle Ages, when it was indeed condemned and banned as "a bloody and murthering practice."

Not that I, who love the game, have the least sympathy with so draconian a move; but such things could come about.

Incidentally, there was a dimension of deep irony to the arrest of some 17 Luton fans for planning and executing violence, carried out with a frightening variety of weapons, including specially sharpened small knives. Luton, the town which first rushed to the Thatcherian colours after Heysel's disaster, banning all away fans from their ground, insisting that no-one be admitted without an identity card! The moral: where violence exists, you may drive it out through the door, only to see it return through the window.

SURELY one of the most interesting, talented and entertaining

LOADED NST US RMANY

BRIAN GLANVILLE column

GARY LINEKER . . . Spanish cup-winner.

young players in England this season has been Nigel Clough, the little Nottingham Forest centre-forward.

Few who were present will forget the superb game he played for Forest when they put Arsenal out of the FA Cup at Highbury, the glorious deep through pass with which he set up Forest's second goal, beating the Arsenal offside trap, the way in which, throughout a hectic match, he constantly found time and space at the heart of the storm to do clever, elegant things.

Both as a player and as a person, he is an utter contrast with his bombastic, eternally controversial father; to whom, it must be said, he is a great credit in every way. As a player, Brian was essentially a goalscorer with a goalscorer's imbued selfishness; you could in that respect compare him with Mirandinha, Malcolm Macdonald, Clive Allen. Powerful and incisive, he scored goals galore for Middlesbrough, though he played only a couple of games for England, and spent most of his career in the Second Division.

I still feel it was daft not to have taken him to the World Cup of 1958 in Sweden, the first I ever covered, after poor Tommy Taylor had died in the Munich air crash. But perhaps, given the injury with Sunderland which alas ruled him out of the game quite early, we never knew quite how good he was, quite how much he could do.

As a manager, he has, with the exception of those unhappy parentheses at Leeds, where he was cruelly humiliated, and at Brighton, been an extraordinary success. Present success of the Forest team is due in no large measure to his talented son, a quiet, charming, well mannered boy, who on the field does good by stealth, seems more interested in making goals than scoring them, but scores plenty of them, just the same.

The alleged weakness in young Clough's armoury is his lack of pace. This, we are told, is what disqualifies him as candidate for the England team, this is what makes him an unlikely candidate for Italian football and its packed defences, though Pisa were supposed to have offered £1 million for him. (Not the kind of sum that Pisa are used to playing, but never mind.)

I am not so sure. Has pace become a modern fetish? It's a good many years since Mick Channon, who had plenty of it, said to me: "Without pace of some kind, you're ----ed, at least at international level."

There is clearly some truth in this. After all, if you are an up front man, or even an attacking midfielder, there is not much use beating your man, or chasing a through ball, unless you have the speed to leave the pursuing pack behind.

Yet they used to say something of the sort about Wim Van Hanegem, the massive Dutch left footer. Just before Feyenoord, his club, soundly beat Celtic in Milan in the European Cup Final in 1970, Jock Stein, Celtic's revered manager, told his team that Van Hanegem was "a slow Jim Baxter."

Baxter, for those who are young or short of memory, having been the superbly gifted left-half who delighted Rangers and Scotland fans 20 odd years ago.

In that European Final, Celtic never laid a boot on Van Hanegem. Four years later, in the World Cup Final against West Germany in Munich, I thought he was the best player on the field with his magnificent distribution, his glorious left foot, his lightning appreciation of strategy.

Quick thinking and technique; those are qualities young Clough has, too, qualities which not only allow him to make scoring chances for his colleagues with every kind of pass, from the quick, short, square lay off to the long through ball, but to be in the right place to take opportunities, himself.

Players should surely be used and appreciated for what they have, rather than for what they have not. Ideally, they should complement one another, a Van Hanegem or a Nigel Clough being surrounded by those with the acceleration to exploit the balls that they supply. It's worth thinking about.

WHEN a nervous old lady asked J. P. Morgan, that great rogue capitalist, what the stock market was likely to do, he replied to her gravely: "It will fluctuate."

And so does current international form. It would be a bold, brave man who put much money down on any of the eight teams contesting the European Championship, not least after the victory of the Swedes in the Berlin tournament last Easter.

Sweden impressed me a great deal when I saw them lose narrorly to Italy in Naples in the European Nations Cup eliminators, earlier this season. They did not really deserve to go down, two pieces of remarkable shooting by Gianluca Vialli and a momentary lapse by their own strong defence at a free kick costing them the game.

When England were drawn against them in their World Cup qualifying group, I was amused to see them described here as "a useful sparring partner."

The Swedes have one of the best most versatile pairs of stoppers in Europe in Glenn Hysen and Peter Larsson, and the team they took to Berlin didn't even include one of the best strikers, Mats Magnusson, who was wanted by Benfica, Magnusson, who joined the Lisbon club this season, made an awkward beginning there, then settled down well.

Holland, The Soviet Union and Republic of Ireland figure in England's qualifying group in West Germany next month, and if you can predict the Soviet form, you are a better man than I am. Perhaps it is fair to say that they are remotely as bad as they looked when Italy beat them 4-1 in Bari in February just after their winter break, and may not be as good as they looked when they themselves beat Argentina, with Maradona hardly functioning on all four cylinders, later, in Berlin.

Valeri Lobanovsky their manager, and the manager of Dynamo Kiev, who provide most of the team, missed that tournament. He had allegedly — you can never be sure of anything where Russians are concerned — been detained with the consequences of a heart attack.

This wouldn't be surprising, given the strain under which he, like his Kiev players, have been placed for so long, obliged to compete both for club and country in so many major tournaments.

At the moment, the Dutch surely look the best bet. They got their draw, and very nearly a win, at Wembley without over-exerting themselves.

Until he limped off, to a mingling of cheers from the sporting and monkey noises from the hooligan fringe, Ruud Gullit had proved that he is irrepressible; at least by any current defence England can put in the field. Come June, Marco Van Basten may well be back there beside him, which would enormously improve the Dutch striking power, already far from negligible.

WORLD SOCCER FOUR PAGE SPECIAL ON THE AFRICAN NATIONS

THIRD WORLD NOT THIRD

From ROB HUGHES
(of the Sunday Times)
in Morocco

THE AFRICANS are getting hot. After watching Cameroon beat Nigeria to win the 16th African Nations Cup in Casablanca, it is high time we retired patronising cliches like "eternally the continent of tomorrow" and "gifted individuals who'll never get it together."

Casablanca confirmed what only fools and ostriches deny — that third world soccer is catching up. Lest we forget, West Germany did lose to Algeria during the 1982 World Cup. Italy were embarrassingly held there by Cameroon, and England luckily drew with Morocco in 1986.

Many shrugged off those results because the World Cup invites tactical draws, even tactical losses, during the first round.

But when Nigeria won the 1985 FIFA U16 championship in China we could hardly say our boys were not trying.

The developing continents improve as Europe and Latin America regress. Asia, with teeming millions, will find a way; Africa, with 550 million in 51 countries, is almost there.

Many are besotted with soccer. Moroccan children — girls as well as boys — play in streets, on beaches and wasteland the way Europeans did before the video, and often barefoot the way Brazilians are apparently abandoning.

The joys of football at that level, the irreplaceable spontenaiety and skills, are growing up. I witnessed them at training sessions among the eight Coupe d'Afrique finalists in March.

In competition, where it matters, Africans also look to be rapidly absorbing tactical awareness, gamesmanship, and bloody-mindedness to persevere through intimidating competitions.

Intimidating on their own soil? Fiercely so, Cameroon and Nigeria played as sporting a final as you will see, but they came through hostile semi-finals.

Nigeria were hissed from the kick-off against Algeria, their wrong anthem played. Cameroon were cruelly baited from first to last of a brawling encounter against the Moroccan hosts.

Cries of "Cannibals, Cannibals!" brought home the horrible truth that racial intolerance is not purely a South African evil.

CAF embraces, or tries to embrace, two distinct groups. The Arabic nations to the north and the blacks of central Africa.

And in a tournament where the balance shifted from Egypt, Morocco and Algeria to the more vigorous and at times enchantingly talented central Africans, crowds constantly abused their "African bretheren" a) because they feared defeat, b) because of their skin.

There was no English or Dutch style hooliganism, merely the odd idiot scampering after the referee after Morocco lost the semi-final.

But the verbal abuse at times made African unity about as comfortable as the poor parachutist whose descent for the opening ceremony became entangled on a floodlight pylon; and there he dangled while play beneath him commenced.

Yet Morocco had organised with such good will. The country has two immaculate stadia and King Hassan II promises nine more will be built if FIFA grants his people the 1994 World Cup. The Monarch is seen everywhere, his foot resting on an Adidas ball.

This is a nation out to please. We wanted to see both semi-finals, the first of which kicked off in Rabat in late afternoon, the second against a Casablanca sunset 60 miles away.

No problem. Nigeria and Algeria went into extra-time and penalties, but we saw most of it. And there is rare excitement listening to a 9-8 penalty shoot-out by radio while riding in a Keystone Cops bus chase through red lights, with police whistles stopping on-coming traffic in the nick of time.

We hit nothing until, at the gates to Mohammed V stadium, our bus clipped a barrier and pinned two policemen beneath it. Bruises, but only hurt looks and sheepish smiles spoke volumes for the Moroccan temperament.

Attendancies at earlier games soared to 90,000 for Morocco and dipped to 7,000 for Cameroon, Nigeria and even Egypt (whose depleted team not only lost the Africa Cup but also shed its English manager Mike Smith who was promptly sacked).

The Egyptians were first round losers along with Zaire, Ivory Coast (despite the scintillating runs of Monaco winger Youssouf Fofana), and Kenya who alone among the eight squads revealed sufficient niavete to concede more than a single goal. Twice the Kenyans let in three, but they took home the Fair Play Trophy.

None of the semi-finalists could complain about that. Nigeria deservedly beat Algeria in Rabat, though it took almost two and and half hours, and a decisive penalty miss from Lakhdar Belloumi to finish it.

Without Rabah Madjer, the Algerians relied overmuch on Belloumi. His touch may still be silky but his influence waned after he had a leg shattered in Tripoli three years ago.

Nigeria overran him, and gave a polished first half interpretation of the 3-5-2 formation introduced six weeks previously by new trainer Manfred Hoener.

An immense, unsmiling West German, Hdener wears a Manchester United team shirt. He sometimes looks less in harmony with Nigerians than their second coach Paul Hamilton, yet undoubtedly the tactics are Hoener's.

They squeeze the midfield five to allow full-backs sprinting upfield as "false wingers", and the elusive creators Henry Nwosu and Samuel Okwaraji so confused Algeria that Abdererrezak Belgherbi scored a 39th minute own goal.

Once ahead Nigeria lost composure. They switched to a frantic long-ball game, became drawn into niggling confrontation, and paid the price.

Six minutes from the end Ademola Adesina, having angered the referee by feigning injury to waste time, committed the foul which made him only the second player to be sent off in the 16 game tournament.

Nigeria then panicked, conceded an equaliser to Rachid Maatar, and went through the agonies of extra-time and penalties which Claude Leroy, Cameroon's French trainer, believes sapped sufficient energy to cost Nigeria the final.

Leroy is too modest. Cameroon would have prevailed anyway. The indomitable Lions produced their best during the worst of a savage semi-final.

After five minutes the Mauritian referee Cadressen Eganeden lost control when 15 plyers fought around him after an off-the-ball headbutt by Cameroon's Andre Kana which concussed Moroccan sweeper Mouahid Hassan for 25 minutes and squashed his nose bone. Sporadic fighting and squabbling went unpunished by the wretched referee.

Leroy unreservedly condemned the headbutt and says he has seen nothing like the violence in 31 games and three years directing Cameroon. His players talked of racist provocation — "the Moroccan players were saying we blacks can't play" said full-back Charles Ntamark, who has a law degree.

Whatever the provocation, Morocco more than matched the kicking and punching (and significantly finished bottom of the fair play judgement).

Their view, of course, was different. "We know Cameroon can play beautifully," commented the Moroccan team doctor Halid Houssan. "But this night we saw judo, karate, boxing, not football."

Not entirely true. Possibly while the Doc's back was turned preparing his player for hospital, Cameroon's sweeter instincts did surface. Their rolled passes, played first time with the outside of the boot, have a Brazilian flavour.

Their goalkeeper Joseph Antoine Bell is, typical of African keepers, an acrobat who once denied Morocco with an astonishing nonchalent one-handed catch behind his back.

And their match winner, Cyrille Makanaky, volleyed the goal from 20 yards with such disguise, such little backlift, that Badou Zaki, Morocco's World Cup goalie, was completely wrong-footed.

Makanaky, nowadays with Toulon, is one of five Cameroons in the French League. That, and the fact that so many Africans are now employed in France, Portugal, Belguim, Spain and West Germany, is one cause of professional sophistication on the dark continent.

Another is that only Ivory Coast among the eight squads has a coach not imported from Europe, Brazil or Russia. And none of these legionaires seems better attuned to the marriage of African improvisation with European order than Leroy.

"The African is so fascinating," he enthuses. "And advancing so fast. There is great improvement in goalkeeping, our defenders are among the best on earth, and I thank my professionals (predominantly the forwards employed overseas) for moulding in so well."

Leroy's hero for the tournament was defender Emmanuel Kunde, "a player of physique, technique and spirit who influences the whole 90 minutes."

Kunde performs for Laval, but you might remember him as the cavalier whose shot from 30 metres at the 1982 World Cup was like a sting delivered beyond credible range.

He has thighs like Mike Tyson has a neck. He is Mr Indomitable of the Indomitable Lions, and he makes his own observation of Cameroon's progress: "The work began in 1972," says Kunde.

"After we lost to Congo in the Nations Cup played in Cameroon, it started a great panic which changed the whole approach.

NATIONS CUP

RLD BUT RD RATE

"The rewards are we now have eight players who have come through our youth system. Now the greatest problem for Africa is to obtain the release of our players when they are needed."

Most were for this Nations Cup. But sometimes it was touch and go, with the likes of Bell for Cameroon and sweeper Stephen Keshi for Nigeria flown in by presidential jet for the final after club games for Marseille and Anderlecht.

"We have many, many players," agrees Lt.Col. Yenu Abin Yaga, the genial head of the Nigerian delegation. "But we are training them for Europe.

"Europeans are going to steal all our talents, we must get them to sign contracts for when we need them. This time we got most of what we asked, and that's why the final will entertain you."

The prophet Yaga was right. The final, though settled by a Kunde penalty, soothed the troubled mind. Its colours of greens and reds and yellows displayed African vivacity; its rhythm seemed orchestrated to the beat of jungle drums in the grandstand; its individuals still dance through the mind.

GROUP A

Morocco 1 (Krimau 43 pen)
Zaire 1 (Lutonadio 88)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Tesfaye (Eth)

Morocco: Azmi — Tijana, El Biyaz, Hassan, Lamriss (Ouadani 62), El Haddaoui, Bouderbala, Timoumi, *Khairi, Krimau, Fadel (El Gharef 54). *Khairi sent off, 61.

Zaire: Merrikani — Kalau, Ngombo, Bwana, Kongolo, Kingambo, Ndinga, Tueba, Santos (Lutonadio 62), Basaula (Nkama 51), Kabongo.

Algeria 1 (Belloumi 16)
Ivory Coast 1 (Traore 48)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Cadressen (Mauritius)

Algeria: Drid — Merzekane, Belgherbi, Megharia, Chaib, Maatar, Kaci Said, Belloumi, Bouafia (Menad 72), Yahi, Medane (Djahmoune 85).

Ivory Coast: Zagouli — Aka, Sekana, Lue Ruffin, L. Zahaoui, Gadji Celi, Miezan (Guede 77), F. Zahaoui, Magui, Traore, Fofana.

Ivory Coast 1 (Traore 74)
Zaire 1 (Kabongo 37)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Benaceur (Tun).

Ivory Coast: Gouamene — Dieckett (Aka 46), Lago, Sekana, L. Zahoui, Gadji-Celi, Magui, F. Zahoui, Otokore (Amani 62), Traore, Fofana.

Zaire: Merrikani — Alau (Mbala 39), Mutombo, Buwana, Ngombo, Nidinka (Lutonadio 73), Santos, Makengo, Kingambo, Mobati, Kabongo.

Morocco 1 (E. Haddaoui 52)
Algeria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Farr (Maur).

Morocco: Zaki — Tijani, El Biyaz, Hassan, Ouadani, El Haddaoui, Timoumi, Lamriss, Bouderbala, Krimau, El Ghares (Hamraoui 81).

Algeria: Drid — Merzekane, Belgherbi, Megharia, Chaib, Belloumi, Maatar, Kaci Said (Djahmoune 32), Ferhaoui, Bouafia, Menad.

Algeria 1 (Ferhaoui 36)
Zaire 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 80,000. **Ref:** Ngombo (Benin)

Algeria: Drid — Khamachli, Belgherbi, Megharia, Benhalima, Yahi, Maiche, Belloumi, Ferhaoui, Bentayeb (Menad 70), Medane (Maatar 83).

Zaire: Merrikani — Kongolo (Malumba 13), Bwana, Tueba, Ngombo, Mutambo, Santos, Kingambo, Lutonadio, Kabongo, Mapuata (Nkana 57).

Morocco 0
Ivory Coast 0
Att: 90,000. **Ref:** Hafidh (Tanz)

Morocco: Zaki — Tijali, El Biyiz, Hassan (Ouadani 87), Lamriss, Khairi, El Haddaoui, Benabicha, Bouderbala, El Gharef, Krimau.

Ivory Coast: Gouamene — Aka, Lue Ruffin, Sekana, L. Zahoui (Houbou 82), P. Lago, Ben Salah, Serge, F. Zahoui (Amani Yao 64), Traore, Fofana.

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Morocco	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
Algeria	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
Ivory Coast	3	0	3	0	2	2	3
Zaire	3	0	2	1	2	3	2

GROUP B

Cameroon 1 (Milla 5)
Egypt 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Traore (Mali)

Cameroon: Songo'o — Ndip, Massing, Kunde, Ntamark, Ekeke, Kana-Biyik, Tataw, Makanak, Omar-Biyik (Mfede 28), Milla.

Egypt: Choubeir — I. Hassan, Omar, Sedky, Yassin, Youssef, Gharib (Ramadan 83), E. Soliman (T. Soliman 65), Orabi, H. Hassan, Abdelhamid.

Nigeria 3 (Yekini 6, Edobor 13, Okosieme 33)
Kenya 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Badara (Sen)

Nigeria: Rufai — Sofoluwe, Uwe, Eboigbe, Omakara, Okosieme (Odegbami 82), Okwaraji (Nwosu 67), Adesina, Eguavon, Edobor, Yekini.

Kenya: Muhanji — Ochola, Weche, Olang, Juma, Ayoyi, Mutua, Ochieng, Zangi, Mulamba (Motego 61), Onyango (Dawo 49).

Cameroon 1 (Milla 21)
Nigeria 1 (Okwaraji 2)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Kalombo (Malawi)

Cameroon: Bell — Tataw, Massing, Ntamark, Kunde, Mbouh, Mfede (Djonkep 57), Kana-Biyik, Makanaky, Milla, Ekeke (Olle Olle 77).

Nigeria: Rufai — Solofuwe, Keshi, Eboigbe (Edobor 34), Omakaro, Owe, Adesina, Okwaraji, Eguavon, Yakini, Obiku (Odegbami 73).

Egypt 3 (Abdelhamid 2, 65, Younis 58)
Kenya 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Bantsimba (Congo).

Egypt: Choubeir — I. Hassan, Omar, Yakan, Yassin, Younis, Youssef, Gharib, Abdelhamid (Yehya 77), H. Hassan, Ramadan.

Kenya: Ochieng — Ochola, Olang, Otiengo (Zangi 77), Juma, Weche, Odhiambo, Mutua, Mulamba, Dawo, Ayoyi.

Cameroon 0
Kenya 0
Att: 25,000. **Ref:** Badou Jasseh (Gambia)

Cameroon: Bell — Tataw, Massing, Ntamark, Kunde, Makanaky (Mandengue 84), Mbouh, Kana-Biyik, Mfede, Milla, Djonkep (Olle Olle 71).

Kenya: Ochieng — Anyangu, Olang, Odnor, Juma, Ayoyi (Motego 68), Otieno, Odhiambo, Nyangi, Nulambo, Dawo.

Egypt 0
Nigeria 0
Att: 25,000. **Ref:** Bangoura (Guinea)

Egypt: Choubeir — Obr. Hassan, Omar, Sedky, Yassin (Mamadan 68), Youssef, Ismail, Gharib, Younis, Yehya (Ramadan 68), Hoss. Hassan, Abdelhamid.

Nigeria: Rufai — Sofolowe, Uwe, Eboigbe, Omakaro, Okwaraji, Odegbami (Okosieme 72), Adesina, Nwosu, Yekini, Folokunso (Edobor 80).

Final table	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	3	1	2	0	4	1	4
Cameroon	3	1	2	0	2	1	4
Egypt	3	1	1	1	3	1	3
Kenya	3	0	1	2	0	6	1

SEMI-FINALS

Morocco 0
Cameroon 1 (Makanaky 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Cadressen (Mauritius)

Morocco: Zaki — Tijani, El Biyaz (Ouadani 10), Lamriss, El Haddaoui, Dolmy, Khairi, Bouderbala, El Gharif, Krimau.

Cameroon: Bell — Tataw, Abena, Kunde, Ntamark, Makanaky, Olle Olle, Mbouh, Nfede, Milla, Kana-Biyik.

Nigeria 1 (Belgherbi og 39)
Algeria 1 (Maatar 86)
HT: 1-0. 90 mins: 1-1. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Badara (Sen)
Nigeria 9-8 on penalties after extra time.

Nigeria: Rufai — Sofoluwse, Uwe, Eboigbe (Odu 95), Omokaro, Eguavon, Okwaraji, *Adesina, Nwosu, Yekini, Foloruso (Okafor 84). *Adesina sent-off, 84.

Algeria: Drid — Merzekane (Maiche 74), Megharia, Belgherbi, Maatar, Chaib, Ferhaoui (Bouafia 71), Belloumi, Yahi, Menad, Medane.

THIRD PLACE MATCH

Morocco 1 (Nader 67)
Algeria 1 (Belloumi 87)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Tahir Hafid (Tanz)
Algeria 4-3 on penalties after extra time

Morocco: Azmi — Tijani, El Biyaz, Ouadani, Jabrane, Dolmy (Hamraoui 14), Benabicha, Khairi (Timoumi 104), El Gharef, Nader, Kiddi.

Algeria: Drid — Merzekane, Belghorbi, Megharia, Chaib, Maatar, Yahi, Belloumi, Ferhaoui, Medane (Djahmoun 71), Bouafia (Bentayeb 64).

THE FINAL

Cameroon 1 (Kunde 55 pen)
Nigeria 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Idrissa (Sen)

Cameroon: Bell — Tataw, Massing, Kunde, Ntamark, Mbouh, Mfede, Kana-Biyik, Makanaky, Milla, Olle Olle (Abena 33).

Nigeria: Rufai — Sofoluwe, Keshi, Eboigbe, Omokaro, Nwosu, Okosieme, Okwaraji, Eguavon, Yekini, Folorunso (Edobor 76).

THE SQUADS

Algeria: Goal: Drid, Kadri, Nouri. **Defenders:** Kechamli, Merzekane, Megharia, Chaib, Benhalima, Belgherbi, Bouafia. **Midfield:** Kaci-Said, Belloumi, Maatar, Hocine, Ben Mabrouk, Madjer, Ferhaoui. **Attack:** Diahmoune, Medane, Menad, Bentayeb, Belabed. **Manager:** Rogov.

Cameroon: Goal: Bell, Songo'o, Niend. **Defenders:** Abena, Kunde, Libjin, Massing, Ndip, Ntamark. **Midfield:** Kana-Biyik, Mandengue, Mbouth, Miede, Tataw, Ebwelle, Tchakounang. **Attack:** Djonkep, Ekeke, Makanaky, Milla, Olle-Olle, Oman-Biyik. **Manager:** Leroy.

Egypt: Goal: Choubeir, El Batal, Taher. **Defenders:** I. Hassan, Youssef, Sedki, Omar, Saad, Yeken, Yassine, Ramz. **Midfield:** Gharib, Younes, Kassem, Orabi, T. Soliman. **Attack:** Ramadan, H. Hassan, E. Soliman, Abdel Aziz, Gamal, Yehia. **Manager:** Smith.

Ivory Coast: Goal: Zagoli, Gouamenè, Digbeu. **Defenders:** L. Zahoui, Sekana, Kouamè, Ruffin, Lago, Obrou. **Midfield:** Bensalah, Gadji Celi, Dieket, Magul, Miezan. **Attack:** Fofana, F. Zahoui, Traorè, Tiehy, Otokorè, Guedè, Cissè, Amani. **Manager:** Martial.

Kenya: Goal: Muhanji, Ochieng, Busolo. **Defenders:** Weche, Oduor, Juma, Ocholla, Anyangu. **Midfield:** Odembo, Otieno, Zangi, Mutua, Olang, Ochieng. **Attack:** Mulamba, Dawo, Onyango, Ayoyi, Kefa Taso, Motego. **Manager:** Makokha.

Morocco: Goal: Zaki, Azmi. **Defenders:** Fadel, Hirs, Hcinar, Lemriss, Mourad, Lachabi, El Biaz. **Midfield:** Dolmy, El Haddaoui, Amanallah, Timoumi, Benabicha, Fadel Hassan, Bouderbala. **Attack:** Krimau, Ghori, Kidi, Abderrahim, Khairi. **Manager:** Faria.

Nigeria: Goal: Rufai, Ngodigha, Agbonavbare. **Defenders:** Sofoluwe, Omakaro, Egboibe, Adesine, Kenshi. **Midfield:** Nwosu, Oliha, Igbinabaro, Eguavon, Obobalfo, Okwasaji. **Attack:** Edobor, Slasia, Okwaradi, Owubokiri, Eesin, Fashanu. **Manager:** Hoener.

Zaire: Goal: Lekelè, Pangi, Etshelè. **Defenders:** Mbayi, Mbaki, Kalombo, Pshota, Ngalula, Malumba, Mamson. **Midfield:** Kiwi, Tikongo, Mbotè, Tueba, Lemba, Nidela. **Attack:** Ndanago, Kabongo, Mondueni, Vita, Nklambe, Maridu. **Manager:** Pfister.

WORLD SOCCER FOUR PAGE SPECIAL ON THE AFRICAN NATIONS

MOROCCO B WORLD CUP C

By KEIR RADNEDGE

Morocco's logistical success in hosting the African Nation's finals had long-term significance.

The Fédération Royale Marocaine de Football are competing with the Brazilians and Americans, to host the 1994 World Cup finals.

Brazil are giants in terms of football achievement, the United States in administration and finance. But Morocco represent the game's "tomorrow" — and that is why they are getting a foot in the FIFA door now.

Along with Cameroon, Tunisia and Algeria, Morocco have shown over the past six years that Africa is the fastest-growing power in international soccer.

Brazilian commentator and one-time national manager Joao Saldanha predicted a decade ago that an African nation would win the World Cup before the end of the century. But even he failed to consider that an African nation might host a World Cup within that time.

Africa is turning tradition inside out. It was partly thanks to the ambitions of the African voting bloc that Joao Havelange unseated Sir Stanley Rous as FIFA president in 1974. In gratitude, Havelange moved quickly to expand the World Cup, opening the finals to 24 nations from 16. that meant more opportunities for the Africans to show what they could do.

Before Havelange, ambitious and talented African footballers had to travel to Europe to make a name for themselves.

Portugal's success in the mid-1960s was built on the foundations of Eusebio and Coluna, from Mozambique; earlier, Rachid Mekloufi and Larbi Ben Barek were North Africans who became heroes in France.

Now African football is strong enough to stand on its own feet internationally.

Tunisia played host to the first World Youth Cup back in 1977; the exciting African Nations' Cup finals descend on one country every two years. Africa's soccer leaders know what it means to play host to the global village. Why not the World Cup?

This is why the Moroccans are bidding now. They may not win this time round, but they are establishing a lead over African rivals for the right to disturb the long-established Europe-Latino balance of power.

Morocco, a nation of 22 million people, enjoys political stability under King Hassan. His government has worked hard to expand tourist appeal, meaning better communications, road, rail and air links, and hotels. These are items on the FIFA check list which mean as much if not more than prowess on the pitch in choosing World Cup hosts.

Football achievement is mere icing on the cake. If that were not so, the United States could withdraw their application now.

FIFA decides for 1994 on July 4, that is why Morocco pulled out all the stops to make a success of the African Nations' finals. It was an ideal opportunity to demonstrate to the supporters Morocco need within Africa and within the African federation (and to FIFA's observers and delegates) that they know how to organise.

And, of course, they have international playing pedigree after reaching the second round of the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico, the first time an African nation had progressed into the closing stages. It was only fatigue which allowed eventual runner-up West Germany to snatch a last-gasp winner from a free kick.

When — not if — Morocco stages a World Cup, the country's football administrators will be fulfilling a destiny hinted at in 1970 when it became the first independent African nation to qualify for the final round, also in Mexico. But they failed to follow up that success in the next few years, and Morocco was written off, even in Africa, as a flash in the pan.

In the early 1980s the national game came alive again. Successful runs in the African Nations' Cup and World Cup qualifiers brought crowds flocking back to watch domestic competition. When the air force club, FAR, won the African Champions' Cup, its Brazilian coach, José Faria, was appointed manager of the national team.

Faria skilfully welded a team out of the best elements of his FAR side, plus exiles Merry Krimau (then in France with Le Havre), and Aziz Bouderbala (then with Sion in Switzerland). He was also blessed with Africa's top goalkeeper, Zaki (Ezaki Badou) and its best midfielder in Mohammed Timoumi.

But Morocco's application for 1994 depends not on the sure hands of any goalkeeper, the deft touch of a midfield general or the shooting power of a centre-forward. It depends on political will and finance.

Morocco is bigger than Italy, slightly smaller than Spain, and has both Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts. Rabat is the capital, Casablanca the main port. Other potential World Cup centres are Marrakesh, Fez, Meknes, Tangier, Oujda, Tetuan, Kenitra and Safi.

Making stadia there fully available for all FIFA's needs would be no problem, unlike the hassles over debenture holders which proved such a contentious and scandalous issue in Mexico in 1986. But the World Cup demands at least a dozen venues with between 30,000 and 50,000 capacity. With the exception of the Stade d'Honneur in Casablanca (90,000), few other grounds aspire even to the minimum.

Considering the ease with which Portuguese, Spanish, French and Italian fans could make the trip, it is clear that this is one area in which work will be needed.

Of course, King Hassan can guarantee that stadiums befitting a World Cup will be available in time, but Brazil and the United States already have such venues. This is another reason why Morocco's 1994 bid must be seen as a foot in the door for a later date.

But when? Europe and the Latin Americans will fight to preserve their alternate hosting privilege. Already Switzerland and France have emerged as contenders for 1998.

China has been mentioned by Havelange as potential host in 2002. Europe would then expect to play host in 2006, and South American football leaders would be furious if they had to wait even as long as then — let alone until 2010.

That extends World Cup infighting into an era which is still the realm of science fiction.

No wonder Morocco want to make their presence and ambition felt now. Considering its great record of athletic success, Africa has long ago earned the right to stage one of the two great sporting extravaganzas. The Olympic Games do not look like going there, so why not the World Cup... one day?

FOOTBALL was introduced to Nigeria by Europeans, the game being played by colonial officials, troops and the business community from the late 19th century onwards.

The strange game was soon being imitated by the local population but Nigerians got little chance to play the soccer in any organized fashion until the game spread into the schools.

As a result it wasn't until 1945 that there was enough interest to promote the forming of the Nigerian F.A. That year the Governor, Sir Arthur Richards, donated a silver trophy for a cup competition the first edition of which attracted only Lagos teams with Marine beating Corinthians in the first final.

The first team to dominate the competition however were Lagos Railways. They had a particularly formidable forward line, known as the "Union Line", and starring Tesilimi Balogun a forward who according to local legend killed two goalkeepers with the power of his shooting.

Railways won the cup in 1946, '47, '48, '49 and 51. They had a revival in '56 and '57 and recorded their last win in 1964.

The first region to seriously challenge the capital was Port

ZAKI... starts another Morocco attack

NATIONS CUP

O BOOST P CLAIMS

NEW president of the African confederation, in succession to the late Ydenekatchew Tessema, is 41-year-old Cameroon official Issa Hayatou. He is a former secretary-general of the Cameroon federation. Hayatou was voted in after an energetic election campaign based on the following:

FIFA abandoning the Europe/Americas World Cup alternation; including the African champions in the annual World Club Cup; increasing to three nations the African representation at the World Cup finals, starting from 1994; enforcing on European clubs the right of African players to be released for competitive matches.

NIGERIA finished runners-up in the African Nations' Cup. Not so much a failure — more confirmation of progress as demonstrated by third place in the 1985 World Youth Cup and by triumph that same year in the World Under-16 event. All they lack now is an appearance at the World Cup finals.

BOB PATEMAN REPORTS

Harcourt, a regional team winning the cup in 1955 after being runners up on two previous occasions. Ibadan Lions, another regional side were runners up in 1960 and winners the following year by which time they had recruited Balogun.

In fact the great player proved more than most clubs could control and he was to change alliances frequently throughout his playing career. Plateau's success persuaded a local business man, Israel Adebayo, to set up a club side and Stationary Stores were founded in 1962.

The side won the Nigerian cup in 1967 and 1968 and had nine players in the national squad. However their founder died in 1969 and the team quickly split.

Their place at the head of Nigerian football was taken by Enugu Rangers, which was another remarkable story. In the late 1960s Nigeria had been torn by a bitter civil war as part of the country attempted to establish an independent nation of Bifra.

The city of Enugu was in the centre of the struggle and by the time it was occupied by Federal forces little was left but rubble.

Nigeria however emerged from the war a very different nation. World oil prices were high and Nigeria's own fields were starting to reach maximum production. Money was suddenly plentiful and millions of dollars were poured into the rebel states in a successful attempt to heal the rift in the nation.

A considerable amount of the money found its way into sport and as a result Enugu emerged as a major force in Nigerian football.

A national league, another attempt to use sport to unite this giant country, was started in 1972 and Enugu took the title in 1974 and '75. They followed this up with three wins in the 1980s to make themselves then the most successful side in the competition's history.

Enugu also made a major impact on African competitions, finishing runners up in the Champions' Cup in 1975. Shooting Stars of Lagos beat them to an African title, winning the Cup-winners' Cup in 1976 but the following year Enugu kept the same trophy in Nigeria, beating Canon of Cameroon 4-1 in the home game and drawing 1-1 away.

Before the 1970's the Nigeria international team had made little impact on African soccer. True they had entered the 1963 Nations Cup but they had been heavily defeated by both Egypt and Sudan and it was to be another 13 years before they returned to the finals of that competition.

By the early 1970s however Nigeria was portraying itself as the leading 'super power' on the African continent. Successful sport teams were seen as an important way to demonstrate this new role and large amounts of money were poured into sports. As a result Nigerian athletes, boxers, tennis players and weight lifters were soon approaching world standards.

Football, as the 'national sport' naturally received a great deal of sponsorship from both government and business and from this point on there was far more importance attached to international events.

Stages

The first signs of this came in the 1970 World Cup qualifying rounds. Because the early stages were zonal Nigeria had to overcome two soccer giants, Cameroon and Ghana, to even reach the three team play off.

There they started badly, dropping a home point to Sudan. That was to prove a costly mistake for they eventually lost out on a trip to Mexico by a single point.

They made the last three again in 1978 and this time started with a 4-0 home victory over Egypt and a goalless draw away to Tunisia. At that point however their campaign fell apart, they lost in Cairo and then disastrously at home to Tunisia. In 1982 they again got to the final round but this time lost both legs to Algeria to complete their World Cup jinx.

Nigeria also came to triumph in the Nations Cup. Returning to the competition in 1976 they scored victories over Zaire, Sudan and Egypt but were beaten in both the first and second round groups by Morocco and had to settle for the bronze medal.

That team included two of the all time greats in Nigerian football, Chukwu at centre half and Lawal in mid field. Two years later the team returned from Ghana with another set of bronze medals having lost to the super-fit Ugandan team in the semi-finals.

In 1980 however Nigeria themselves staged the competition. There were record crowds with the 16 matches averaging 46,000 attendances and the final itself being watched by over 80,000. Nigeria had a particularly fine team. Odegbami, when on form one of the most exciting forwards in Africa, lead the attack, Best was a fine goalkeeper and veterans Lawal and Chukwu were still there.

The semi-final brought the Nigerians up against their old enemy Morocco but Owolabi gave his side a nine minute lead and that proved to be the only goal. In contrast the final was almost an anti climax, Odegbami scoring twice in a match that rarely saw the home side troubled.

Nigerian football was, at last, shown to be the best in Africa. Pride however goes before a fall.

The members of the team became celebrities and few could handle their new success. Of the side that had won the trophy in Lagos only three lined up for the defence of the cup two years later and Nigeria crashed out of the first round.

This rapid change in fortunes demonstrated many of the problems that Nigerian football had had to face. Soccer gets such support that many players simply fail to live up to their reputations. There are other problems as well. Each region attempts to have their own stars included in the national team and as a result the final selection is not always the best available. The same passions create all kinds of problems on both the field and the terraces. Riots have often resulted in the death of fans and several Nigerian clubs have been in trouble with the CAF.

Another problem is that many of the magnificent stadiums built during the 1960s have been allowed to fall into disrepair and are no longer up to international standards.

Underlining it all is the feeling that Nigerian football revolves around money and not tradition. If a club loses its sponsor it can fade rapidly into oblivion while clubs can rise just as quickly if the cash or promise of work is made available to buy the loyalty of a few stars.

New Nigeria Bank, twice winners of the West African Cup and league champions in 1985 are one example. A even more dramatic rise however was witnessed by Leventis. Founded by amalgamating several regional clubs and supported by a large chain store the club rose from third to first division champions in just three years. On the way they took the Nigerian Cup and reached the final of the African Cup-winners' Cup.

Yet despite all the problems Nigeria continues to produce an annual flood of good young players that has allowed their teams to keep bounding back. It took the national team just two years to make amends for the disappointment of 1982.

They started the next tournament with a 2-1 defeat of holders Ghana but were given a tough time by Malawi. They took a point from that game then played out a disappointing dull 0-0 draw with Algeria, a match many people felt was 'fixed'.

The CAF gave both sides a heavy fine but they remain in the competition and in the semi-finals Nigeria recovered from a 2-0 deficit to beat Egypt on penalties.

By reaching the final Nigeria had done far better than anybody expected and although they took an early lead against Cameroon they eventually lost 3-1.

Never the less it was a fine Nigerian team. Peter Rufai, who played in two matches, was on his way to becoming one of Africa's finest keepers, Stephen Keshi was a most affective sweeper never afraid to come forward and Muda Lawal in midfield was playing in his fifth tournament.

Even more success was to come Nigeria's way in the new junior and youth World Cups. So far the youngsters have appeared in three finals and, more importantly, have consistently produced the kind of attacking skills that in the past we have relied on the Brazilians to produce.

These results have only confirmed that Nigeria's vast pool of players has the potential to sweep the country to the top of the football world.

Poverty, political interference, and lack of experience will hinder the progress but I expect, in my life time, to see the Senior World Cup go to Africa. And if that dream is to come true then Nigeria are the outstanding favourites to fulfil it.

FROM PAUL GARDNER IN DALLAS

YOUTH SOCCER TREAT

SO the FIFA Inspection Committee has been and gone. In a whirlwind of activity, the members jetted their way all over the United States, checking up on the stadia proposed for the 1994 World Cup.

One of the committee's stops was in Dallas, to take a lok at the Cotton Bowl. What a pity the FIFA gentlemen could not have been there a couple of weeks earlier — and visited the Lake Highlands Stadium instead.

There they would have seen the finals of the Dallas Cup — the climax of a week-long youth tournament which ranks as one of the world's best.

It was the man himself — Mr Pele as he sometimes gets called — who kicked off the ceremonial first ball, and who game his opinion that the Dallas Cup "is a mini World Cup."

Started back in 1980, the Dallas Cup was the brainchild of Ron Griffith, a transplanted Englishman who had earned himself the title of Mr Soccer in the Dallas area.

After years of travelling overseas with his club, the Texas Longhorns, Griffith decided it was time to repay some of the hospitality by inviting foreign teams to Dallas.

Now in its ninth edition, the Dallas Cup this year featured 92 boys', plus 18 girls' teams, in Under-12, U-14, U-16 and U-19 age groups.

Internationally, the Dallas Cup did better than the World Cup, which features a mere 23 foreign teams. This year, in Dallas, they had 32 from 14 different countries including Italy, Canada, Mexico, Sweden, England, Chile, Norway, Bolivia and France.

There is already a strong FIFA connection at the Dallas Cup — among the referees. Ten FIFA referees worked the tournament, including Scotland's Bob Valentine — whose next major tournament assignment will be the European Championships in West Germany.

(Alas, the kids in Dallas do not always show the required respect. Refereeing last year's U-12 final, Bob Evans awarded a free kick and then heard a squeaky voice behind him complain "Huh, some FIFA!")

It is never easy to control the overall calibre of teams in a youth tournament, but the level of play in the Dallas Cup has risen to the point where the United States National U16 team enter and, this year, lose to a club team, the La Jolla Nomads.

The tournament also attracts the superb Tahuichi team from Bolivia (winner of the U19 title for the past two years), an U14 squad from the Brazilian pro club Vasco de Gama, and the U12 team from the Mexican FA coaching school, Cecap.

The Cecap team, in fact, proved something of a headache for the Dallas Cup organisers. After recording 9-0 wins in their first two games, Cecap were loudly accused of using over-age players. The boys were double-checked, and proved to be in order.

Cecap were gently advised not to run up their scores. To show what they thought of that, they went out and won their third game by 18-0 — and went on to take the title while opposing fans chanted "*Quantos años?*" (How old?) from the sidelines.

The U12 final was the first game in a day long series of finals at the Lake Highlands stadium. The U14 title went to Diamond Bar California (the only US win among the boys), while the Canadian NSL Select from Toronto captured the U16 final.

By the start of the U19 final, 7,500 people wre in the stadium to see the older NSL Select boys take on Tahuichi. The Canadians, as their coach later admitted, played "unashamedly total defence". Tahuichi hammered mercilessly away at the Canadian net for 89 minutes before scoring the only goal of the game.

Tahuichi lifted their trophy and did a victory lap, while in the stands a small group of Bolivians beat their drums and waved their flags and sang their songs. It really did feel like a mini World Cup.

Throughout the week, the Dallas Cup people had exhibited all the qualities which will loom so large should the USA get World Cup-94. Overwhelming hospitality, widespread volunteer help (over 700 people give their time, to things which ranged from putting up goal nets to housing visiting players), efficient transport between the widely separated fields, and easy communications. Over 200 games were played — despite the sudden Texas rainstorm that caused a whole day's games to be suddenly rescheduled.

The organisers were also presented with a unique próblem when three teams ended up with precisely equal points and goal scoring records for one of the wild-card spots.

That was decided when all three teams turned out at 10.00 the following morning to take part in what was probably the world's first three-way penalty kick shoot-out.

Because of the large amount of volunteer help, the Dallas Cup yearly budget is only $200,000. The largest part of this goes on rental of a modern three-room office in Forest Plaza. Here, all is fitted carpets and dark, smoked glass. Tournament director Bill Stroube sits at a desk and surveys walls that are covered with pennants and badges of foreign teams who have visited Dallas — over 150 of them.

"The TV prograamme *Dallas* helped us," says Stroube, "Even now when you meet teams at the airport, you get people saying 'OK, where's JR?'

And this is a city that wants international recognition, so the city people are working with us now. We have a Mayor who's keen on the Cup. Why? He never played soccer, not did his kids — but six of his 13 grandsons play!"

The success of the Dallas Cup brings the inexorable question — where do we go from here?

"Well," says Stroube, "I don't think we want to get much *bigger*. I think 96 teams in the boys division, and maybe a similar number in the girls would be right. Some of these tournaments are enormous — I think the Norway Cup has over 1,000 teams. But it's difficult to control the standard that way. And another thing, we barely have the fields as it is."

What Stroube has in mind is to increase the importance and the reputation of the Dallas Cup, to make it *the* premier youth tournament in the world.

"I'd like to have the whole world of youth soccer focus on Dallas for eight days every year. But to get to the next stage, we're going to need full-time staff, I think we've gone about as far as we can go with the volunteer set-up."

Well, Stroube should know, as he's a volunteer himself — he "tries to make a living as an independent oil producer in the mornings, then I give the rest of the day to the Dallas Cup."

Perhaps it is that volunteer atmosphere which makes the Dallas Cup such a human, almost a family, event.

Stroube's eyes fix on a pennant on the wall — one which says "Lagos Stars, Nigeria" — and he is reminded of a story — "Did I tell you about the time the Nigerians went to the wrong hotel? They were here for three days, and we didn't even know they'd arrived!"

Then it's back to business. This is, after all, Texas — and they're supposed to think big here. So Stroube is having big thoughts: "What we need is a soccer complex. About 100 acres, I estimate, with 16 fields — and a stadium, of course. To get that, we've got to have backing from some big national sponsors."

It is, of course, precisely the hope of many soccer people in the States that the coming of World Cup 94 will generate that sort of sponsor interest, and that major American corporations will be persuaded to put some *real* money into the development of the sport here.

They need only take a look at the Dallas Cup to see the potential.

TAHUICHI of Bolivia — Dallas Cup winners.
Picture: PHIL STEPHENS

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FIVE YEARS FOR BILARDO

from ERIC WEIL in Buenos Aires

CARLOS BILARDO has completed five years as Argentina's national team coach . . . but he did not realise it until reporters came to interview him about it!

The high point during those five years was, of course, winning the World Cup in Mexico in 1986, but Bilardo confessed that he had seriously thought of going to live in another country if his team had failed in Mexico.

In spite of the criticism he had received from all sides before the World Cup when the team was doing badly in warm-up matches, he felt that his worst moment came when Argentina drew 1-1 with Paraguay just before they left on a tour on the way to Mexico and his father was waiting for him when he came off the field and told him to give it up . . . and that really made him feel like doing it.

Now Bilardo is looking ahead and says that so many clubs and national teams are copying his tactics that he will have to change them and look for other variations for the next World Cup . . . which the national team squad is already doing in training.

Society

He is also looking further ahead at the game of the future when, he feels, the open spaces on the field will be further and further reduced and there will be no room for the players who only stand out for their technique or, for that matter, those who are only outstanding athletes.

But Bilardo also feels that it is not true that soccer has lost its former beauty, but that it has changed just as the whole of society has. Comparisons just cannot be made with the past.

As Bilardo starts his sixth year in a hot seat which, until his predecessor, Cesar Menotti, nobody had held on to for very long in modern times, he faces a worrying time. Until the transfer registers close in Europe for the coming season he will not know how many players of his national team squad he will be left with at home and how many will join the seemingly never ending exodus to foreign clubs.

URUGUAY holds an unwanted record — exporting soccer players. There were over 400 transfers to foreign clubs registered by the Uruguayan FA in the last 20 years while a leading Uruguayan newspaper, La Hora, says 1,332 players have been "exported" between 1957 and 1984.

Less than a year after winning the South American Championship, six of the players which helped Uruguay to do it have gone to foreign clubs. Peñarol, who won the Libertadores Cup and then the Intercontinental Cup at the end of last year, have sold two players abroad and are negotiating the transfer of four more . . . and those who are leaving are getting younger and younger.

Selling players to foreign clubs is the only way Uruguayan clubs can keep their heads above water financially and there does not seem to be any other solution in sight. A good example is that this year Peñarol, one of the country's to big clubs, has renewed its players' contracts without paying signing on fees for the first time and their salaries have been reduced. The players will however get good bonuses when they do well in international competitions . . . which serve as a show window to place them with foreign clubs.

BRAZIL: The popularity of soccer is fading in Brazil of all places according to a recent poll there which showed that the most popular sport among the young is now volleyball.

Of youngsters between the ages of 14 and 25, 69 per cent said volleyball was their favourite sport and only 58 per cent mentioned soccer . . . a result which would have been unheard of in Brazil a few years ago.

The fall from top popularity of soccer, according to these youngsters, is the growth of other sports, stadia violence, the great number of league matches and the poor quality of players.

It must be said however that the poll was taken only in Rio de Janeiro among middle class youngsters, but it is nevertheless significant.

Santos coach Eusebio Machado Souto (Geninho) said in a recent press conference in Argentina that Brazilian soccer is going through a period of transition which will yet last several years. He mentioned that stars of not so long ago like Zico, Falcao and Socrates, have not been replaced while eight players of Brazil's 1986 World Cup squad have gone to European clubs. He said that while there are many young players with a great future in the country, fans expect a lot and are very impatient.

ARGENTINA: Independiente, the club which has won the Libertadores Cup more often than any other — seven times — made an early exit from the new Joao Havelange Super Cup which, for the first time, brings together the 13 past winners of the annual Libertadores Cup for the top two teams of each South American country (plus the previous year's champions).

They were knocked out by Brazil's Cruzeiro by 3-1 on aggregate over the two-legs of the first round during a time when they were going through a slump, also in their domestic championship, from which they have now recuperated.

Their neighbours, Racing Club, meanwhile had it easy against a young, inexperienced Santos (Brazil) and, having a bye in the second round of this 13-club competition, they went straight into the semi-finals.

The trouble with this kind of competition — for club champions over the last 27 years — is that it does not generally bring together the best teams of the moment and the line-up includes few teams doing particularly well in their own domestic competitions at this time, the possible exceptions among the 13 being Racing Club Avellaneda (Argentina), Flamengo (Brazil), Peñarol (Uruguay) and Olimpia (Paraguay).

On the domestic front in Argentina, Newell's Old Boys, last season's runners-up from Rosario, led the National A Division by one point form San Lorenzo with 10 games to go and they also had an unfinished game against Unión de Santa Fe pending — suspended after 38 minutes play with no score when the referee was knocked out by an object thrown from the stands.

Dismissed

The talking point however was Racing Club (Avellaneda) which, after topping the table, or thereabouts, for most of the season, had failed to win any of their last six games and had dropped down to fifth place, four points off the pace.

It all came to a head when team doctor Adolfo Fort was dismissed. He had been giving the players daily doses of vitamins which, apparently did them no good. Several players had already stopped taking them 15 days earlier because they were not feeling well and it showed on the field. The all-attack team, which had shown so much stamina earlier in the season, looked burnt out.

Doping was being talked about and "Probenecid" mentioned. Apparently this strengthened the players' muscles, but at the same time made them more tense which seems to account for an extraordinary crop of injuries — nine first team squad players at the time of writing.

Topping the scorers table were Jose Luis Rodriguez of Deportivo Español with 17 goals, Iglesias of Racing Club (Avellaneda) with 14 and Perazzo of San Lorenzo with 13.

COLOMBIA: The Colombian professional league increased to 15 clubs this season with the return, after 45 years absence, of Sporting of Barranquilla, thus giving the country's four major cities two clubs each — Bogota with Millionarios and Independiente Santa Fe, Medellin with Nacional and Independiente, Cali with America and Deportivo and Barranquilla with Atletico Junior and Sporting.

It also meant that the first stage of the championship was being played in three groups of five clubs each (with group winners going into a final round) instead of two of seven.

The government wanted clubs to reduce the number of foreign players in their line-up from four to three, but after some discussion the measure was postponed as this season, the clubs complained, they would have to give up their leading players at times for World Cup (qualifying) preparations. And as the season started, only 37 contracts of foreign players were registered by the FA out of a possible 60.

America start the season without their long-serving coach, Doctor Gabriel Ochoa Uribe who has taken a six-months leave for a vacation in the US and Europe although he also intends to study the latest techniques on the latter continent. He is being replaced by Humberto "Tucho" Ortiz.

Cross-town rivals Deportivo Cali have a new Uruguayan coach, Oscar Tabarez, and defender Obdulio Trasante both from Libertadores Cup holders Peñarol of Uruguay. Other leading foreign players for this season are Chile's Juan Carlo Letelier with Nacional and Argentina's Mario Videla with Millionarios.

ECUADOR: Barcelona of Guayaquil, the defending champions, started the 1988 season under a new coach as Uruguayan Roque Maspoli decided not to return to Ecuador.

He was replaced by another foreign coach, Argentine Cesar Reinoso but Uruguayan coaches are still in the majority. Ten of the 18 first division clubs have foreign coaches and five of them are Uruguayan.

Aucas top the table as the only team with full points after two games while newly-promoted Juventus of Esmeraldas — a town 180 kilometres north-east of Quito, is 15th with one point.

New national manager is Yugoslav Dusan Draskovic.

PERU: Sporting Cristal won the de-centralised championship in Peru by a point from Alianza Lima who lost 16 players in an air-crash earlier in the season and put up a magnificent performance with reserves, veterans returned to

RS RDO

HERRERA (Estudiantes) gets the ball away from Alzamendi (River Plate) . . . but River Plate won 1-0.

active duty — like Teofilo Cubillas — and players on loan from other clubs.

The top six teams in this tournament now play off for a second Libertadores Cup place while Universitario de Deportes (Lima), winners of the Metropolitan championship, have already clinched the other place. Sporting Cristal, as de-centralised winners, took two bonus points into this six-team tournament while Alianza, as runners-up, took one and at press time the two teams were joint leaders after two games.

BOLIVIA: Bolivar won the Bolivian professional league's first stage to clinch a place in this year's Libertadores Cup and at least the vice-championship.

The top eight teams are now playing a final round from which the champion will emerge.

Argentine German Panichelli of The Strongest finished as top scorer with 21 goals.

Qualified for the final round — in two groups — are Bolivar, the Strongest, Litoral and Always Ready (all from La Paz) in group A and Oriente Petrolero, Destroyers, Blooming (Santa Cruz) and Petrolero (Cochabamba) in group B.

VENEZUELA will be under a local coach, 42-year-old Luis Mendoza, for their World Cup qualifying games against Brazil and Chile.

Mendoza, a former attacking midfielder, is considered the best player the country ever had.

MEXICO: Julio Cesar Uribe, the Peruvian international on loan to America of Mexico City from America of Cali (Colombia) and the Mexican club's leading scorer, left the team because he could not get on with the other players.

Uribe — considered America's best player — had been involved in several fights. Nevertheless, a week later, America beat Universidad de Guadalajara, the points leaders since the beginning of the season, 1-0 and at press time they trail them by only one point.

The Mexican first division's regular season has 13 matches to go and then the top two teams of the five groups into which the championship is divided qualify for the quarter-finals. Group B leaders Universidad de Guadalajara and group D leaders Morelia both already had 10-point leads over the third-placed teams while America, who top group C, had an eight-point lead.

GUATEMALA: The new season started with first division clubs permitted to line up four foreign players each and clubs have signed on mostly Argentine and Uruguayan players, but no top liners.

After three games champions Aurora, the army team, lead on goal difference from Bandegua and Galcasa with five points while Xelaju, one of the clubs to bring in their full quota of foreigners, had no points.

MAS BACK AT 41

OSCAR MAS, the electrifying little Argentine international winger who scored over 200 goals in the first division for River Plate — many of them spectacular and point savers — retired un-noticed recently after 24 seasons of professional soccer at the age of 41.

Mas made his first division debut with River Plate in 1964, played in the World Cup finals in 1966 and qualifying games when they failed to reach Mexico in 1970 and ended his long career with several lower division and regional league teams. In between, he had a spell in Spain with Real Madrid.

Mas said the motivation was not there any longer, but he is not leaving the game. He has three "soccer schools" for boys where he tries to pass on his skills.

MULLER, the 21-year-old Brazilian international, entered his country's record books by scoring a hat-trick in the second straight league match for Sao Paulo FC who have this season adopted all out attacking tactics with four defenders and six attackers.

ROBERTO ROJAS, the Chilean international who was only last year voted as the best goalkeeper in South America, cannot get his regular first team place back with Sao Paulo since being sent off in a league match. Brazilian international goalkeeper Gilmar is keeping him out.

CLAUDIO CANIGGIA, the Argentine international striker, has been transferred by River Plate (Argentina) to Verona (Italy) for 2.5 million dollars and will join the Italian club immediately after the end of the Argentine season in May.

WA
MY

By FRANCISCO MATURANA
Manager of Colombia
Rous Cup rivals for
England and Scotland
EXCLUSIVE interview
by JUMA TAMMINEN

'THERE'S no secret behind the progress of Colombian football. The recipe is simple and well known all over the world: organisation and hard work.

Our youth football was completely reorganised some eight or nine years ago. Youth coaching is now taken seriously and there is an organised championship for boys of 14 and upwards. And the results so far do look promising.

Our youth team finished third in the South American Cup in Paraguay, and then last year they won the championship thus qualifying for the World Youth Cup. Also it used to be very difficult for a 19-year-old player to get a chance to play in the professional first division.

Hammered

Normally a player had to be 23 or 24 to be taken seriously, but now there are already many players aged 19 or 20 in the first division. By the time they are 24, they'll already be experienced players.

How long will it take Colombia to reach the top?

It's difficult to say. But at least we've left behind us the era when we always got hammered by six goals by Brazil. Now we can at least compete with them on more or less equal terms, and in the Olympic qualifying tournament we first beat them 2–0, but lost the second game 2–1.

We didn't make it to the Olympics, but we were considered the best footballing team in the qualifying tournament in Bolivia. We played our first round group in Santa Cruz at sea level, and defeated Brazil, Peru and Paraguay, and drew with Uruguay. We won the group without conceding a goal.

But the final was played in the Bolivian capital La Paz at 3,700 metres above sea level, and that was too much for us. We lost to Bolivia and Brazil by 2–1. We beat Argentina 1–0. But it wasn't enough. We do play at high altitudes in Colombia. But even at the highest places we're still well over a kilometre below the altitude of La Paz. And our preparation was made for playing at sea level, because we started at Santa Cruz.

Now we are thinking all about Italy and the 1990 World Cup finals. We must build on the team which took part in the Copa America. Those players must form the backbone of the team which takes on Paraguay and Ecuador in the qualifying rounds.

In a country the size of Colombia 11 players of international calibre just don't turn up overnight. We have to think of our present team as merely a basis, but leave the door open for new talent.

People keep asking if I will be the manager then, and I can't tell them because it's not up to me to decide. But I would lie if I told you that I wasn't interested. I am only 39 and my intention is to stay in football for many years to come. I want to get as far as possible.

I played eleven years with Atlético Nacional of Medellin, where I won the Colombian championship twice and finished runners-up three times.

Then I moved to Tolima, where I was runner-up, too, and then at Bucaramanga, where I hung up my boots in 1983.

I also played for Colombia in the PanAmerican games, Olympic qualifiers, and in the World Cup qualifiers for Argentina and Spain. In the latter our coach was Carlos Bilardo.

Returned

I started coaching with the youth teams of Atlético Nacional and spent the 1986 season coaching a Second Division side.

Then I was named coach of Atlético Nacional's first team, and last April led the Olympic Team in the Qualifying Tournament. Then I took the national side to the South American Championship, after which I returned to Atlético Nacional.

Club football comes before international football in Colombia. It always has and always will.

This is because the federation is rather poor and can't afford to spend much on the national team, which means club football also comes first for the players, too.

For example our participation in the Copa América was financed by Atlético Nacional, who put eight players and the whole coaching staff at the national team's disposition.

However I think we are on the right path and there are a few young directors around, who really want to develop Colombian football and especially the National team.

Our biggest handicap is the lack of international experience. Some South American teams do come to play in Colombia, but our teams travel very little. We should travel the world more and play against top opposition — but the matter is not quite that simple.

We are lacking achievement at international leve to make people take note of us. And unknown teams are unlikely to be invited to Europe, because the public are not interested in them. I hope this Rous Cup invitatio
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MYSTERY ME

COLOMBIA remains the mystery country of South American football.

Their top clubs, such as America and Deportivo Cali, Atletico Nacional of Medellin and Millonarios of Bogota, pay their top players the best wages in the continent.

But where does the money come from?

Few people ask questions. One who did was a former Minister of Justice, Rodrigo Lara Bonilla. He alleged that several clubs were used by the drugs mafia to 'launder' the cash. In the spring of 1984 Bonilla produced a report naming three leading sports officials and six clubs as involved — directly or indirectly, knowing or unknowing — in the use of drugs industry cash.

The clubs he named were America, Millonarios, Atletico Nacional, Santa Fe, Pereyra and Independiente Medellin.

Bonilla was assassinated in April, 1984.

Only once has any further attempt been made to confront the issue. Tha was last autumn when the influential newspaper, El Espectador, linked America — three times losers in the South American club cup final — with the drugs industry. The paper claimed an involvement by the patron of America, Miguel Rodriguez Orejuella — a millionaire businessman with interests in cinemas, restaurants and transport and whose brother Gilberto, was persona non grata with the United States drugs squad.

America's president, Juan Jose Bellini, ridiculed the idea. He said at the time: "Why should this club need bad money? We have 2,000 rich members plus a group of legitimately successful businessmen who don't need that sort of operation. People put two and two together and get five. Maybe they are jealous of our success."

Colombia certainly cannot deny a chequered history in the game — as the British should know only too well. There were the 'El Dorado pirates' of the early 1950s and the phantom World Cup operation of 1986 to say nothing of poor old Bobby Moore and 'that' bracelet in 1970.

Colombia have been invited here for the first time.

In 1987, Colombia finished third in the South American Championships,
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CARLOS VALDERRAMA is the first Colombian every to have been voted South American Footballer of the Year. Nicknamed the 'South American Gullit', for his eccentric hairstyle, he is the transfer target for a string of Italian and Spanish clubs.

Interview by JONATHAN SHALLARD

How do you explain Colombia's success in 1987?

Football today in Colombia is better organised than ever before. We have people who know how to run businesses properly. It is not just a hobby or a plaything for them. I think we also have people in charge of the national team now — like Maturana — who understand the importance of preparing properly for major events and matches. And I think that the clubs see, too, that it is in their own interests if the national team is successful.

Can Colombia qualify for the 1990 World Cup finals?

Certainly... as long as we beat Paraguay and Ecuador in the qualifying tournament. People have said it is an easy group. But Paraguay reached the second round in Mexico and Ecuador know our game very well. That's why the matches we play this year — in the United States, in England, in Scotland and wherever else — are important. We need to be ready for the World Cup qualifiers next year. In a group of three teams droping just one point can be fatal.

Your personal ambitions?

Ideally I want to play for one of the big European clubs. Then I could show the world that we do have plenty of good footballers in Colombia as well. South America doesn't finish at the borders of Argentina and Brazil. As yet no-one has spoken to me directly about a transfer. Everything must go through the directors of Deportivo Cali first. When there is some news I am sure they will let me know. I have no particular preference for a transfer. I admire the professionalism of the Italians, the skill of the French and then the Spanish, of course, speak the same language!

Are there too many foreign players in Colombia?

The rules have been changed this year. Now teams can line up four foreign players; last year it was three. I think the old rule was the better. Colombian football is making enormous progress. We need to encourage our young players, not squeeze them out. I hope they go back to the three-foreigner rule next year — whether I'm there or not.

VATCH OUT FOR
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invitation will be the first of many. We're coming to Europe mainly for the experience and to learn new things.

The result is not the important thing in friendly matches, although it would be great to beat England at Wembley.

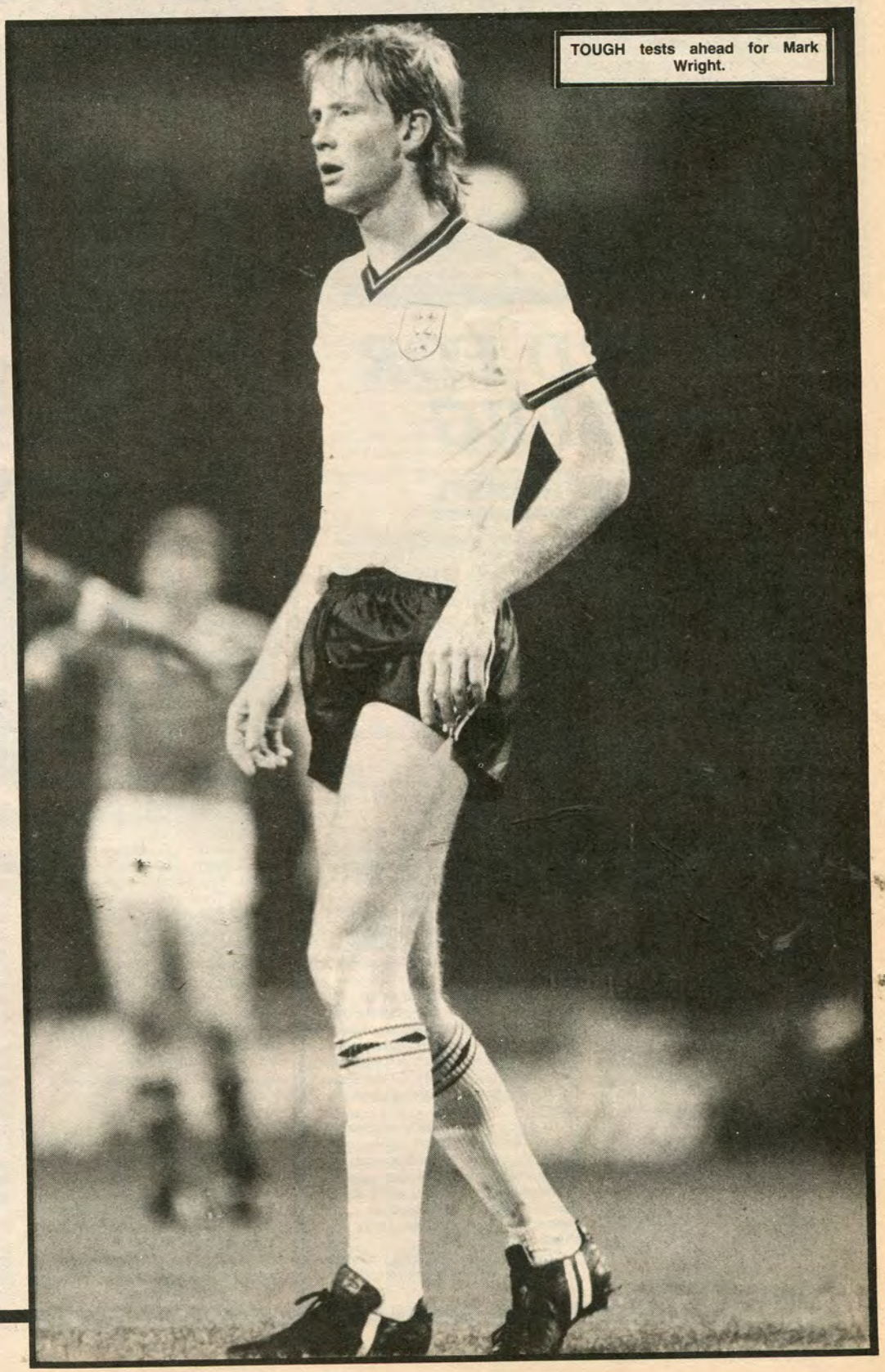
But the most important thing is that our players get a chance to play against a top foreign side, representatives of another football school. Only this will bring the priceless experience we need, and which will come when most needed.

A typical Colombian plays the way he feels the game in his heart — cheerfully, cheekily, inspiringly, he wants to enjoy himself, have fun playing football, and his ball control is good.

Now we have managed to add better fitness and more strength to his natural technique and that has come through advanced physical training programmes.

Pure skill is not enough, you need a good physique, too.

Now we are getting those two factors in better balance.



TOUGH tests ahead for Mark Wright.

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beating world champions Argentina 2-1 in the play-off. Since then, however, they have had a disappointing Pan-American Games tournament — drawing with Paraguay and losing to Guatemala and Mexico — and failed to qualify for the Seoul Olympics by finishing bottom of the final group behind Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia.

England have met Colombia once before (Scotland not at all) back in 1970. A 4-0 victory, with goals by Martin Peters (2), Bobby Charlton (his 49th and last for England), and Alan Ball, was tarnished by the allegations against Moore, Charlton and an unknown England player.

England will be preparing for the European Championship honours and Bobby Robson will be happy with a similar result as well as recording England's 42nd victory over the Scots.

Scotland will be searching for more convincing displays than the draws with Malta and Saudi Arabia this year. Andy Roxburgh may sink further into oblivion if confidence and performances do not improve before their World Cup challenge begins in the autumn.

May 21 also sees the start of Europe's bid for World Cup success in Italy 1990 when Northern Ireland meet Malta for the first time.

SWISS STILL LIMIT IMPORTS

SWITZERLAND

THE EXECUTIVE committee of the Swiss National League has rejected the proposals to increase the quota of foreigners per team from two to three.

The season 1988-89 will still permit six players in each side who have no Swiss passport, the currently allow two "genuine" imports, so-called "football Swiss" and border-cases.

But there will be a change of rules governing the other two categories. The description "football-Swiss" will now apply to those who have been playing the game here for seven years and not as at present five. And players who qualify as "border" cases will no longer be allowed if they live within 12 miles of the Swiss frontier, but only within six miles.

In the season after next a new rule will reduce the number of players without swiss nationality from six to five per team.

The suggestion to raise the quota to three imports was made by Servette who cannot accomodate the Brazilian Jose Sinval, the West German striker Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and the Dane John Eriksen, top scorer in the first division. But Servette in fact made the biggest headlines recently with their scintillating displays. Above all 'Kale' Rummenigge who had a lean time in Swiss football.

Since overcoming his injury problems, the 95 times capped former captain of West Germany burst into form. In the 3-3 draw with league leader Xamax he made two goals for Bamert and scored one himself.

Away match to Young Boys "Kalle" hit a hat-trick inside twelve minutes in a sensational 5-1 win. But the championship title will almost certainly go again to Xamax — even though West German veteran Uli Stielike is being forced to retire because of knee trouble.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

REWARD FOR NURNBERG

From TIM MANSEL

INTERNATIONAL call-ups for our Nürnberg players for West Germany's Easter tournament in Berlin was just reward for the club's surprise in the Bundesliga this year.

Times have been relatively lean in recent years for the famous old club, which won the league championship five times in the 1920s.

Apart from their one and only Bundesliga title in 1968, Nürenbuerg's only other high spot since then was a cup final appearance in 1982 when they lost to Bayern Munich. After a season in the second division in 1984, the club, nicknamed simply "Club", had an undistiguished couple of years before this season, when it will take a drastic loss of form to stop them qualifying for Europe for the first time since 1968.

Consitent displays by goalkeeper Andreas Köpke, midfielders Stefan Reuter and Manfrd Schwabl and striker Dieter Eckstein were all rewarded with inclusion in Franz Beckenbauer's 25-man squad for the tournament against Argentina, the Soviet Union and Sweden. Köpke, 26, has been hailed by many as the best keeper in the league this season, although his international opportunities are likely to be limited by the presence of Beckenbauer's first choice pair of Eike Immel (Stuttgart) and Bodo Illgner (Cologne).

With the national team boss thought likely to include just two keepers in his European Championship squad, Köpke will have to rely on one of the other being injured if he is to get a place.

Schwabl, 21, an attractive, ball-playing former Bayern Munich midfielder and the blonde Eckstein, 24, scorer of 13 league goals so far this year, are probably players for the future, with midfield and forward positions in the national eleven likely to go to such established internationals as Lothar Matthäus, Pierre Littbarski, Rudi Völler and captain Klaus Allofs.

Reuter, 21, seems the most likely to have an immediate international future, although that future will be away from Nürnberg.

for even in their moment of triumph, the club is already having to rebuild for next season, resigned to the loss of both Reuter and talented defender Roland Grahammer, 24, who have both signed three-year contracts with Bavarian rivals Bayern Munich.

A bitter public wrangle was fought between the two clubs over the pair earlier this year, with Nürnberg president Ger Schmelzer at one point threatening to refuse to allow Reuter and Grahammer to line up against Bayern in a cup-tie in Munich in February. In the een both played as Nürenberg went down 3-1.

One new face at Nürnberg next year will that of striker Souleyman Sane, 27, currently with second division Freiburg. The signing of Sane probably means the end of a three-year stay at the club for Norwegian international Jörn Andersen.

Under Bundesliga rules clubs are allowed to field only two foreign players.

SWEDEN VIN IN BERLIN

SWEDEN, who have had so many near-misses in major international competitions in recent years, surprisingly came on top in a prestigious Easter tournament in West Berlin, writes PENTTI HIETANEN.

Who could have believed that Olle Nordin's men could do it against the likes of West Germany, Argentina and the Soviet Union?

Certainly not the West German press, who wrote off the Swedish side as soon as they were contracted to step in for France well before the start of the tournament.

After beating West Germany, albeit on penalties, Sweden pulled off another shock by beating the much-fancied Soviets 2-0 in the final. Sweden's goals came from Hans Eskilsson and Hasse Holmquist.

Although IFK Gothenburg and Malmö dominate the Swedish club scene, players from other clubs stole the headlines on this occasion.

Öster's big centre forward Peter Truedsson scored against West Germany. Truedsson, 25, nearly quit the game a couple of years ago because of a mysterious virus infection, but has now proved a more than adequate stand-in for Benfica's Mats Magnusson.

Skilful Eskilsson was transferred from Norrköping to Hammarby during the winter, but has already become a target for Italy's Bologna. Also interesting Italian clubs is midfielder Stefan Rehn, from Djurgården.

As for Franz Beckenbauer's West Germany, his allegedly first choice formation were frankly awful.

They beat world champions Argentina 1-0 with a goal by Lothar Matthäus, but didn't show anything to scare visiting managers such as Sepp Piontek (Denmark) and Bobby Robson (England).

WERDER IS SHA

SEVEN days was all it took to blow apart Werder Bremen's dreams of a remarkable treble.

On the morning of Wednesday, April 13 they stood unchallenged at the top of the Bundesliga and confident of semi-final success in both the West German Cup and the UEFA Cup. By the evening of Wednesday, April 20, Otto Rehhagel's men had only the league title left in their minds. Everything else had been swept out of reach.

First blow fell in the West German cup. Werder were clear favourites at home in the semi-finals to inconsistent Eintracht Frankfurt. But a goal right on half-time from Frankfurt forward Frank Shulz proved the only of the match. Frankfurt now go on to the final in West Berlin on May against Schulz's old club, Bochum — who knocked out holders Hamburg 2-0 in their semi-final (Hamburg keeper Koito let an Andrzej Iwan shot slip between his legs for the decisive second goal).

The following weekend Bremen easily beat relegation-bound FC Homburg by 3-0. It was victory with added significance since second-placed champions Bayern Munich were losing simultaneously by 2-1 to Hannover.

With six to go, Bremen were now six points clear of Bayern and Köln. They should have been ideally placed to shrug off league pressures for the UEFA Cup semi-final return against fellow West Germans from Bayer Leverkusen. Unhappily, appearances proved deceptive.

Leverkusen held only a 1-0 advantage from the first leg. But Norber Meir and Michael Kutzop in particular wasted clear chances to pull Bremen level and send them on into their first European final. The absences of Thomas Hörster, Brazilian star Tia and Christian Schreir (all injured) as well as that of striker Frank Neubarth (suspended) were handicap enough without the further complication that Werder lost Herbert Waas after only 14 minutes when he strained a muscle.

It was all too much. Leverkusen held out for a goalless draw and went into their UEFA Cup final, where they face Espanol of Barcelona, 1-0 on aggregate. It's an ill wind which blows no West German footballer any good . . .

Earlier Werder had taken an important step towards winning the Bundesliga when they beat Bayern Munich 3-1.

A crowd of 39,500 in a sold-out Weser stadium saw a dramatic game with two penalties — Matthaüs converting the first to give Bayern the lead and Ordenewitz equalising from the

WIN LIN

HANS HOLMQVIST. . . winning goal in Berlin.

TWO DRAWS FOR RAPID

AUSTRIA

THE longest winter break in Austrian league history (103 days) appears to have done more harm than good to the leading clubs Rapid and FK Austria.

Both clubs have disappointed lately, so the championship play-offs starting in mid-March attracted only mild interest among the fans. Rapid who opened with two draws were able to field their Yugoslav striker Halilovic again because his compatriot Kranjcar obtained Austrian nationality and is therefore no longer a foreigner here.

FK flattered when beating Graz by 5-1 only to deceive, losing the next two games. But in the 173rd derby FK triumphed over Rapid by 4-2 while remaining seven points behind their local rivals and league leaders.

FC Tirol, who started this season with such high expectations generated by the managerial appointment of Ernst Happel, continued to disenchant their followers with their inconsistency. They welcomed back the former West German international midfielder Hansi Müller after a six-month lay-off through injury and expect (again!) a lot from him.

More exciting events are reported from the so called middle-round of play-offs for promotion and against relegation. There the headline makers were second division Vorwärts Steyr. After months of protracted negotiations the most honoured Soviet player, 108-cap Oleg Blokhin 35, at last made his debut.

Despite pouring rain 5,000 fans saw touches of class from the Soviet whose engagement was made possible by a furniture manufacturer's sponsorship.

Blokhin, as a nominal member of the militia, had to get special permission to play abroad, at first for just three months, until the end of the season — though his wife and child are expected to join him.

The locals hope he will have more impact than his compatriot Sergei Schavlo who is still kicking his heels on Rapid's reserve bench.

ARTHUR ROTMIL

RDER DREAM SHATTERED

WEST GERMANY

From ARTHUR ROTMIL

spot. Then came the brilliant spell by young Karl-Heinz Riedle. First he fired a drive into the bottom corner of the net, then he swivelled around the veteran international Norber Eder and shot home.

Ironically the talented striker who responded by throwing his shirt into the terraces, blowing kisses and punching the air at the final whistle, is Bavarian-born.

Last season, when he left relegated Blauweiss Berlin, he was offered to Bayern. "No thanks", said general manager Uli Hoeness, "We are looking for someone to replace my brother Dieter, Riedle is too small."

The only blot on his performance was the dive in the penalty area which earned Werder the penalty. Referee Kautschor was fooled, Bayern were left fuming, but the decision stood and the equaliser hit the champions hard.

Uli Hoeness tried to look composed and insisted that the championship is not yet decided, but few took him seriously. In the next round Bayern did slam Schalke 8-1 (keeper Toni Schumacher saved his team from an even greater humiliation) but Werder won away at Waldhof Mannheim, to retain their four-point lead.

Hoeness still did not give up. He said: "Werder will not win every match left, so we still hope to catch them. Don't forget that they have a far more crowded programme than us."

As to his team not dominating like last year, Hoeness said: "The players are a year older and have become more set in their ways. Some are not prepared to raise their game. We also miss players who can remain consistent over a period. We shall have a clear out before next season.

"For example, Andy Brehme might be looking for another club. If he tells us he has found one, then we won't stand in his way — and Eder can go if he wants to. We've had enquiries from Austria and Switzerland.

"Kögl and Winklhofer can get an extension for another year. We need at least 21, 22 players for next season. Michael Rummenigge, we didn't do too badly, may be retained."

And Lothar Matthäus? "Lothar's contract with Inter-Milan is already signed. His move was kept secret for a couple of months. Inter wanted it publicised, but we preferred to keep it quiet; in view of our heavy programme in March it wasn't advisable to cause too much stir in the media."

As for Mark Hughes, Bayern have been having discussions with him and his manager Dennis Roach. Bayern are prepared to pay Barcelona £1.2 million, but it all depends on what Hughes wants to do.

Then there is confusion about Inter's bid to 'poach' Rabah Madjer? Hoeness says: "We shall soon clear up the whole situation, because we must have clarification before July 1.

"If both Hughes and Madjer don't start next season with Bayern, we shall most certainly sign two top strikers. Stefan Reuter and defender Roland Grahammer from Nürnberg are already ours, but we must have four new players to tackle next season."

Bayern's problems with the Algerian, Madjer became even more confusing when it was disclosed that he had signed two contracts.

Jensen win award

DENMARK

JOHN JENSEN, a 22-year-old midfielder with champions Brøndby, has been named Denmark's player of the year.

He is the first home-based player to take the award since Michael Laudrup won it as a teenager in 1982, when he too was beginning his career with Brøndby. Jensen was the motor in Brøndby's midfield, and his dynamic football earned him call-ups first to the Olympic squad and then Sepp Piontek's full national side.

He looks certain to be in the Danes' squad for the European Championship finals, and to follow the well-worn path to a lucrative career aborad. PSV Eindhoven are already showing interest.

For now, he is leading the generation of new youngsters that Piontek hopes will replace the side which has been such a force in the 1980s.

Second to Jensen in the poll was Brøndby defender and colleague Lars Olsen, and third Cologne striker Flemming Povlsen. Olsen and Jensen are hoping to help Brøndby retain their title in the new league season which has just started.

But Jensen believes it will be much tougher for Brøndby this year, saying: "We were the only fully professional club last year, but now there are three others. It will make it hard."

One of those three, AGF of Aarhus, are trying to sign international Per Frimann from Anderlecht.

Still going strong is former European Footballer of the Year, Allan Simonsen, at the age of 35. He now looks the distinguished soccer veteran, sporting a full beard when turning out for home-town club Vejle. Simonsen said: "I still enjoy playing and while I can do that I would like to help out my old club."

A footnote to last month's news. The Stadium Denmark plan has fallen through, and the Idraetsparken will be revamped to become a 50,000 all-seater stadium. It should be ready by 1993.

PASSI IS SUPERB IN MIDFIELD

FRANCE

by ANDRE DUCLOS

MY OPTIMISM about French football in general and the international team in particular has been hearteningly borne out.

A fine 2-1 victory in Bordeaux by the national team against Spain, with Luis Fernandez not only back in the team but right back in form, while in midfield, Gérald Passi was quite superb.

Elimination of the much fancied young Italians home and away in the under-21 tournament, in a manner which gives huge hope for the future.

And a far from negligible performance in the European Cup quarter-finals by Bordeaux who may have gone out eventually to PSV Eindhoven but didn't lose either of the two. What a pity Bordeaux couldn't have built on the brilliant way they began the first, home leg.

But though much criticised for the way they seemed to run out of steam and ideas, allowing PSV to dominate the later play, the Girondins surely atoned for that in Eindhoven, when they battled gallantly for the goalless draw which, alas, couldn't qualify them. Who knows, had Tigana not been hurt in that "tackle" by Gillhaus so disgracefully landed by Koeman perhaps Bordeaux might even have turned the trick. Certainly, however, they cut PSV down to size.

In the domestic tournaments, Monaco, though slipping up here and there, and crashing at Bordeaux, have generally continued to set the pace, but there could well be an interesting challenge next season from Sochaux.

There's no catching Sochaux at the top of the Group A section of the second division; and Paris Saint Germain couldn't begin to catch them in the Cup when they came to the Parc des Princes and won in the first leg by a staggering 3-1.

There are no fewer than two current Yugoslav international stars, Hadzibegic, the defender, and the very experienced, very clever midfielder, Bazdarevic; a couple of inspired buys.

Up front, Morin and Paille are two of the leading scorers in the Group, running neck and neck all season. This, though Stephane Paille doesn't really consider himself a goal scorer.

Tell that to the Italian Under 21s, against whom he got both the French goals in the 2-2 draw gained at San Benedetto del Tronto, in the second of two story matches, which caused accusations to fly between the two camps; The Italians were incensed with the actions of clever little Lada in the first leg.

They claimed he provoked, insulted, even assaulted their players at the end of the game. Lada laughed it off; but there was mayhem outside the dressing-rooms.

Stephane Paille is 23, the "old man" of the so called Under 21 team. The player he admires is the Auxerre centre-forward, Eric Cantona, doing now so well for the French first team. Paille says he wouldn't want to be the kind of player Philippe Fargeon of Bordeaux is; hanging about the penalty box "just" to score goals. A bit hard on a fine little striker, perhaps, but one sees what he means.

Paille won a couple of caps for the full international team, but admits that it was a blow to his career when Sochaux went down last season. Now he looks sure to come up with them, again; but will he stay?

Sochaux, he admits, have taught him everything he knows, but really to reach the heights, he may have to go to a big club such as Bordeaux, Monaco, Racing Matra or Marseille. No doubt it wouldn't displease him to play every week in front of Passi.

The manager of the French under-21 team, Marc Bourrier, praises Paille, says that as long as he goes on banging in goals like those two in San Benedetto del Tronto he will be happy, that "with his great carcass," he gives defences a lot of trouble in the box. He will still mature, says Paille; "he is becoming an adult."

A strange business, that of Enzo Francescoli. At the turn of the year, it looked as if he was booked for Juventus, that Gianni Agnelli, the patron and bank roller of the Turin club, had convinced Matra Racing to let him go.

Then in came Roma, announcing that if the Uruguayan international striker was going anywhere, it would be to them. At which Matra declaimed that he wasn't going anywhere; he still had years of his contract to run, and they had no intention of releasing him.

For his part, Francescoli announced not once but continuously that he was sick and tired of French football. By the time you read this, no doubt the whole matter will be resolved.

It's always very hard to retain a dissatisfied player, however long his contract runs, and I am afraid Francescoli says that Arthur Jorge, the Portuguese manager who took over Matra this season, had also promised he'd help him.

Francescoli says he thinks Paris a magnificent city, but he didn't go there to frequent the discos or stroll up and down the Champs Elysées. What he doesn't like about it is the football.

BARCELO IN UPSE

SPAIN

By DUNCAN SHAW

BARCELONA upset the form book when they brushed aside their many problems to beat holders Real Sociedad 1-0 in the earliest-ever Spanish cup final, brought forward because of European championship preparations.

Only four nights earlier, Barça had crashed 2-0 in Nou Camp to struggling Betis — causing embattled Luis to unsuccessfully offer his resignation — while John Toshack's men were busy destroying Logrones 4-0.

The league has always been one thing, however, and the cup something completely different.

Real Madrid's Estadio Bernabeu was only about a third full for the final, with 25,000 Real Sociedad fans outnumbering the 5,000 faithful who bothered to make the trip from Barcelona. But it was the few Catalans present who ended up celebrating the triumph of an ageing team written off by practically everyone.

The pillar of Barça's success was the renewed central defensive tandem of Migueli and Jose Alesanco, aged 36 and 32 respectively. The veterans put up a brick wall to prevent the Basques from creating a single clear chance.

Moreover, it was Alesanco who scored the only goal with half an hour remaining, putting away the rebound after Gary Lineker had seen a close-range shot parried by Luis Arconada.

That was practically th eonly exciting moment of a tense encounter. Luis was hoisted onto the shoulders of his victorious players.

It was Barça's 21st cup triumph — bringing them almost level with Bilbao's record total of 22 — and means that the Catalan club's unique record of uninterrupted participation in the European tournaments will continue, just when it appeared most in danger.

But this victory will not clear up Barças many personnel problems. The following day, president Jose Nunez confirmed that no reconciliation with Bernd Schuster — who played an excellent, controlling game against Real Sociedad — was on the cards, that coach Luis would be requested to stay on only in the capacity of technical director of assistant coach, and that the club would not remove the player's major bone of contention by paying off the tax debts incurred during past seasons.

In spite of all this, the team followed up their cup triumph by winning 2-0 down in Cadiz and achieving a goalless draw in Murcia, thus killing off any lingering fears about relegation.

It is the relegation dogfight which is providing the end-of-season interest, with eight teams battling to keep their heads above water.

Even tiny Sabadell still have a chance of pulling clear after their surprise 2-1 win away to Zaragoza, who consequently fall into the danger area themselves.

At the other end of the table, in contrast, it's all practically sewed up. With five rounds remaining,

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

THE good work in Malaga, where Spain were seen off, was undone by an inept display in Bulgaria.

Griga, now back at Sparta, should perhaps have played more than the last third but that is what practice games are all about.

In the Olympic qualifying competition the Czechs head Group E with only Yugoslavia as alternative possibles for Seoul. The match in Yugoslavia will almost certainly decide the group though the home team will probably need to win both this crucial game and their final one away to Finland.

In the Czech Cup — the winners play the Slovak cup Winners — there were no real quarter-final surprises. Sparta took Spartak Hradec Králove to the cleaners, winning 9-0. Vitkovice partly made up for elimination from the UEFA Cup by putting out Slavia and Zbrojovka Brno accounted for third division Staré Mèsto, also by 2-0.

Dukla may have lost their last chance of European qualification by going down at home to Bohemians after extra time. It would need a miracle for the Army men from Dejvice to catch Sparta in the league or even qualify for the UEFA Cup.

The spring half of the season had curiously begun with the 'last series of the autumn round' because the Olympic team had arranged a training tour in South East Asia.

It was played as soon as football resumed and saw Sparta take a point from Banik then had to travel to the Letna. Václac Jezek's unbeaten side again did not let the Moravians score and Griga's goal before half time meant the champions were well on their way to another title.

Despite their first defeat in Olomouc, by 2-1, the nine point lead is unlikely to be reduced much by Banik or Dunajská Streda.

At the foot of the table Prešov look certain for relegation, probably with fellow Slovaks, Žilina. Promoted Inter, who merged with Petržalka 18 months ago, were the only team apart from a struggling Bohemians side to take four points from the first two matches after the mid season break, and they both have now reached safety in the middle of the table.

BOB VAUGHAN

LONA PSET

Real Madrid have a nine-point lead over Real Sociedad.

Despite the pressures of their Champions' Cup campaign, the Madridistas have been unstoppable. Assisted by Lopez Ufarte's first minute penalty miss and Paolo Futre's expulsion for a childish tantrum, they won the local derby 3-1 in Atletico's Estadio Calderon, and two weeks later sunk struggling Mallorca with spectacular strikes from Michel and Butragueno.

In between these away wins, Real beat both lowly Sabadell and Logrones by 2-0. In the latter match, Hugo Sanchez put away "the most beautiful goal I've scored in Spain" with a breathtaking overhead kick.

It was the Mexican's 27th strike and keeps him ten goals ahead of the second top marksman, Jose Maria Baquero of Real Sociedad.

A record 11 out of 20 first division coaches have been axed so far this season.

The most significant recent sackings have been of world-famous Argentines Cesar Luis Menotti and Alfredo Di Stefano. In addition, Pepe Martinez has been thrown out by Sabadell while Barcelona and Gijon have made it clear that — despite recent successes — Luis and Manuel Novoa will not remain on the bench after sumer.

Menotti was dismissed by controversial Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil the day after the derby defeat by Real. Before leaving for Buenos Aires, he admitted that it had been a mistake to return to Spain, especially to work under such a difficult man as Gil.

Former Atletico and Spain winger José Armando Ufarte was placed in temporary charge — and then sacked himself for 'not co-operating' with Jose Maria Maguregui, arriving from Celta.

Valencia axed Di Stefano on the same day Menotti was ousted, the consequence of a 3-1 home defeat by Zaragoza which again raised the spectre of relegation for the 'Ches'.

Di Stefano went out protesting. He claimed that technical director and now caretaker manager Roberto Gil — whom he described as an "unprincipled scoundrel" — had masterminded his sacking due to personal animosity.

The national team's preparations for the European Championship are causing general concern. After drawing with East Germany and then losing to Czechoslovakia, both at home, the *Seleccion* fell 2-1 away to a rejuvenated France in Bordeaux.

Afterwards, veteran manager Miguel Munoz suffered a further blow with news of a knee operation for Atletico Madrid iron man Andoni Goicoechea.

AC MILAN BID TO PIP NAPOLI

ITALY

by JANE NOTTAGE

A GREAT finish to the season is boiling up in Italy.

There's Milan's bid to overtake faltering champions Napoli in the league, an intriguing Cup Final between Torino and Sampdoria and then the European championship bid.

All this comes after weeks in which the political temperature has been raised high by a threatened players' strike and trouble over facilities for the 1990 World Cup finals.

The players' strike was one of the most contentious of issues. A walk-out was called by players' union lawyer-president, Sergio Campana, after he claimed he had been tricked by the FIGC over the raising of import limits.

While Campana accepted the move to three foreigners per team in the first division next season — as a joint sop to the Common Market and to the big clubs, he was far more reluctant to concede anything on the second division. Currently only relegated clubs, with foreigners already on board, can play them in the division.

When the league chief, Antonio Matarrese, announced that one import per club would be the norm, Campana was furious. He said he and Matarrese had agreed privately that the entire issue would be reconsidered before the 1989-90 season. That's when the players union — which does not include the foreigners in membership — decided to strike.

Italy is not unused to strikes in all walks of life. But the prospect of a soccer strike provoked a huge, hypocritical backlash from media and public. In the end Mararrese offered a reconsideration of the issue after all and, with three days to go, peace was restored.

Just in time for a dramatic Sunday — as Milan won 2-0 away to Roma to move within two points of Napoli, beaten 3-1 away to Juventus. In a tingling, tense encounter Ian Rush scored one for Juventus and was a key figure in the move which saw Michael Laudrup felled for the penalty which provided another.

There was a superb goal-making response from Diego Maradona and expulsion for Juve skipper Antonio Cabrini before the final whistle.

Rush, who had to be protected by police after the game but this time from well-wishers (!), was a hero. But not for long. The following Wednesday he and his Juve team-mates were bundled out of the cup semi-finals by neighbours Torino. Juve won the second leg tie 2-1 but lost 3-2 on aggregate. With it went probably their last chance of earning a place in Europe next season.

Poor Rush was not the only scapegoat this time. Luigi De Agostini, who converted the penalty which helped beat Napoli, inadvertently sent Juve on the road to cup ruin with an own goal.

Torino — who had previously knocked out cup-holders Napoli — will face Sampdoria in the final. The Genoa team beat Internazionale 1-0 in the afternoon and on aggregate thanks to a first-half goal from Robert Mancini. Inter, jeered by their fans during a 3-0 league win over Fiorentina, were without veteran Daniel Passarella, who had squabbled with coach Giovanni Trapattoni.

As for the 1990 staging of the World Cup, bureaucracy has been fighting technology. FIFA secretary Sepp Blater made a flying visit and found that RAI — the state television — hadn't even started plans for a television production centre to house the thousands of television crews who will descend on Italy in 1990.

His hint that unless they put their house in order, the 1990 World Cup would be held in Mexico or Germany produced sudden progress in deadlock over settling on a site.

Bad news for the Under-21s, who had looked certain to beat France in the European quarter finals. Away in Platini's home town of Nancy they dominated the game for 80 minutes, looking skilful and decisive in every area and went ahead through Paolo Maldini in the 51st minute.

Then the youngsters lost concentration, Paille scored nine minutes from the end and Sauzee grabbed a winner in the last minute.

In the return leg at San Benedetto del Tronto on the Adriatic coast, the game was just as topsy turvy. Again the Italians looked the far classier side.

Just before half-time Cesena striker Rizzitelli put the home side in the lead, then Inter starlet Massimo Ciocci found a way through and scored in the 62nd minute to make it 2-0 to the Italians.

Once more victory and a place in the semi-finals against England looked assured. Then youthful folly reared its head — Paille scored in the 84th and the 88th minutes and the French, instead, went on to the semi-finals instead.

Ian Rush

BELGIUM

THERE IS, it would appear, no end to the twists and turns at the top of the Belgian league this season. The race for the championship has become something of a game of musical chairs for three, leading contenders, Mechelen, Club Brugge and Antwerp.

For just when it seemed that Mechelen had gained the ascendency. along came Brugge to shatter any complacency; furthermore, Antwerp who had been unbeaten prior to Christmas and had subsequently slumped enjoyed a revival to surprisingly regain the leadership.

Mechelen's hold at the top was by no means tenuous.

Even Brugge, who had shown promise struggled to stay in touch, as their 2-0 defeat at Antwerp was put into some perspective the following wweek as FC Liege thrashed the port club 5-0.

Mechelen, meanwhile, restored their two-point lead when they did well to leave Charleroi with a single goal victory, a notable victory given that the nation's aristocracy had already fallen there this season. Brugge kept in touch with a comfortable 3-0 victory at home to Kortrijk.

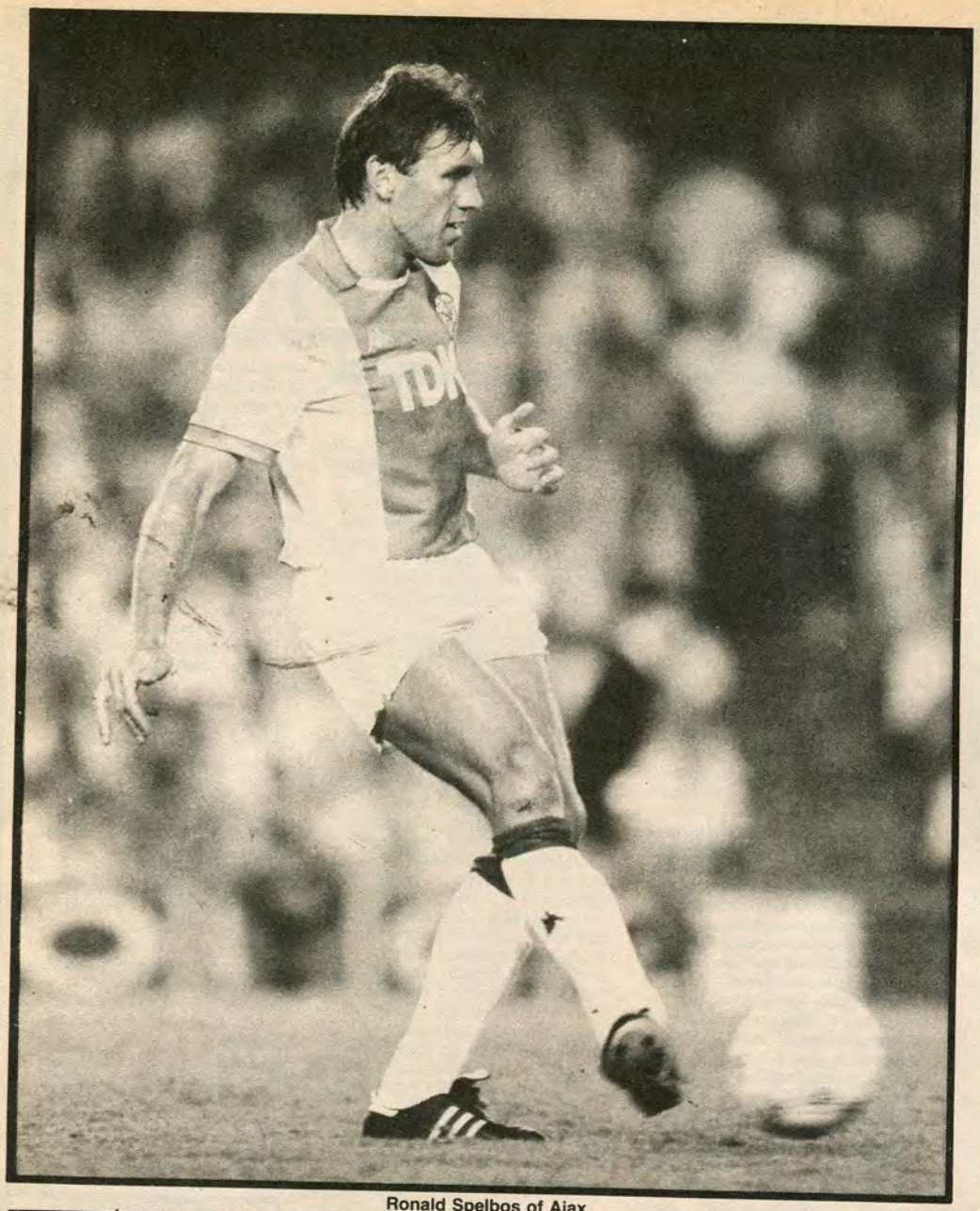
Nothing much changed the following week; Brugge scored four without reply at Racing Jet and Mechelen won a tough battle by the odd goal in three at home to Lokeren. Antwerp, too, got back ont he goal standard knocking four past the hapless RWDM.

The significance of Antwerp's victory became apparent the following weekend, although their vital 2-0 win away to Beerschot in the Antwerp derby constituted only half the story.

The other part related to the crucial top-of-the-table clash at Olympia-park between Brugge and Mechelen, which the home side, had to win in order to keep the visitors from opening out a gap that might well have proven unassailable. In the event they won a tense encounter 2-1 to go first among equals: Mechelen and Antwerp also had 39 points, but Club went top courtesy of a superior goal difference.

But worse was to come for Mechelen who, on the day that Brugge were thankful for a share of the spoils at Charleroi (1-1), were sensationally beaten 1-0 at home by another of the season's shock troops, FC Liege. Antwerp apparently back on song duly beat Waregem 2-0 to go back to the top in the most intriguing title race for years.

IAIN MACLEOD



Ronald Spelbos of Ajax

PSV C THE

PSV EINDHOVEN have finally clinched the Dutch championship.

For months, it had been clear that they would take the title and their 1-0 victory over AZ Alkmaar on April 9 simply made it official.

All season, PSV were so superior to the other Dutch teams that they came to regard league matches merely as warm-up games for the European Cup.

Their first league defeat came as late as March when they lost 2-1 to Feyenoord.

PSV's third successive title shines more brightly than their previous two. This year, partly because the dominating Ruud Gullit left for Italy, PSV really played like a team.

New players Soren Lerby and Wim Kieft gave the side the strength of character that was previously lacking.

With 106 goals after just 30 matches, PSV have also managed to end their tradition of defensive football.

For reasons of sentiment, Willy van de Kerkhof was in the PSV side for the championship clinchr against AZ.

Van de Kerkhof, 36, has been with PSV for well over a decade and is retiring at the end of this season. During the last two years, he has played only occasionally.

Van de Kerkhof will have a lot of memories to fill the long winter nights after his retirement.

He played in 63 internationals, including the 1978 World Cup

SHOCK FOR LODZ

POLAND

THERE were shocks in the Polish Cup, as usual, as LKS Lodz were put out by Gornik Walbrzych and Gornik Zabrze thrashed Slask Wroclaw 6-0.

Lech Poznan, conquerors of Pogon Szczecin, now meet Walbrzych while Zabrze's semi-final opponents are Legia, who beat the last remaining non-top-league side Pogon Siedice of division three by 3-0.

In the championship, Gornik maintained a comfortable lead over LKS Lodz despite dropping a home point to GKS Katowice.

Two consecutive wins have put Legia in the UEFA Cup frame while at the bottom, Stal Wola look doomed with Olimpia Poznan likely to accompany them to Liga II next season.

Cyron (Gornik), Dziekanowski (Legia), Furtok (Katowice), Robakewiz (LKS Lodz) and Urban (Gornik) lead the goalscorers list on 12 each.

Good work

The best news was in the Olympic qualifying competition. Despite Greece taking the lead after ten minutes in the match in Rybnik through Kavouras, Poland's forwards proved too strong, especially after the interval, with Furtok scoring a hat-trick by the 81st minute.

The good work was continued with a victory over Rumania, which puts the Poles a point ahead of the West Germans who have a game in hand.

A rumour that Jan Tomaszewski — star goalkeeper of the 1970s — would be taking over the World Cup management seems unfounded but it will be interesting to see whether players based abroad are selected, if available, for the friendly in Dublin.

ZENITH EARLY LEA

THE surprise leaders in the championship are Zenith Leningrad with eight points from five games.

Torpedo are second despite a home defeat by Kairat Alma Ata, one from bottom where Neftchi linger with a sole point.

There is no undefeated side and the season will only just have settled down when a break comes for the national team's Euro '88 preparations and participation in West Germany.

As usual, goals are at a premium and to date only Zenith and Dynamo Tbilisi average more than two a game. Whether home games 'on the plastic' are a big advantage remains to be seen but Zenith only just missed the drop last year and a four-win revival was not expected. Dimitriev and Co can be judged better once they have played some away matches.

The Ukrainian sides are promising well, notably Dynamo Kiev, 3-0 winners over Metallist which will please Valery Lobanovsky, absent from the four nation Easter Tournament in West Berlin after heart trouble.

With an Olympic place in the bag following the 2-0 home victory over Turkey and Dynamo Minsk out of the Cup-winners Cup, attention has been on the 'Sbornaja,' the national team, its performance in Berlin and the attempt to lift the European Championship.

Success

The Soviets were the first winners, in 1960, runners-up in Spain four years later and perhaps now are due for a success after the World Cup disappointments and long period without even an Olympic title.

No further full internationals are planned following the heavy defeat in Bari, the loss to Sweden and the excellent performance in beating Argentina 4-2.

SV CLINCH THE TITLE

HOLLAND

by SIMON KUPER

Final against Argentina. He is one half of the most famous set of twins ever to play international football — together with brother Rene, he confused many a foreign commentator.

Rene was an outside right but Willy was always a midfield ball-winner. His task won him the nickname of "The Vacuum Cleaner".

Despite PSV's triumph, April was a bad month for Ronald Koeman, their best player. Koeman gave an interview in which he praised team-mate Hans Gillhaus for kicking key Bordeaux midfielder Jean-Paul Tigana out of a European Cup match.

PSV fined Koeman £3,000 and suspended him for the league match against Haarlem. He was also suspended by UEFA from the European Cup return against Real Madrid.

An official of the Dutch FA said that Koeman was a player guilty of football hooliganism. And his team-mates were furious with their sweeper for giving PSV a bad name.

One Dutch division lower, there is another club carrying all before them.

RKC dominate the first division as PSV do the premier division and in the same weekend that PSV won the Dutch championship, RKC clinched promotion to the top flight.

The first club certain to move the other way, from premier to first division, are DS'79. Their stay in the highest division lasted only one season.

Five clubs are playing musical chairs for the other two relegation places — PEC Zwolle, Groningen, Roda Kerkrade, Volendam and Den Haag.

For Groningen and Roda, the situation is especially embarrassing as, before the season started, they said they would challenge for third place in the table.

Den Haag were obvious relegation candidates from the start. They have suffered from off-field problems, chiefly crowd violence and a change of managers.

Resigned

Pim van der Meent resigned last month because of constant rows with chairman De Stoop. Van der Meent objected to Stoop's habit of insulting him in the press.

Piete de Zoete has taken over as manager but Van der Meent has made an unusual agreement with Stoop — "I can come back immediately if he tells lies about me in the press."

Ajax, whose manager Johan Cruyff also resigned this year, have signed Kurt Linder as his replacement. The main reason for choosing Linder seems to have been that he skis with Ajax's chairman Ton Harmsen!

Linder, a West German, has been out of football managing for years and runs a physiotherapy clinic.

Johnny Bosman, Ajax's international striker, has said that Linder's arrival will not persuade him to stay with Ajax.

Ajax have already lost a striker this year — Frank Stapleton recently left for Derby County.

LY LEADERS

SOVIET UNION

by BOB VAUGHAN

The opening game in Berlin was a cracker. Zavarov's scheming outshone Maradona, about as popular in the Olympiastadion as at Wembley, and Protasov provided the finishing. It was a pity only 17,000 were present.

Despite Argentina twice getting back in to the game Protrasov was full of running and the Soviets overcame a short period of uncertainty to win deservedly 4-2.

In the final the Swedes were as fluent as the Russians but the favourites could not convert the chances carved out and Eskilsson and Holmquist punished the Soviet slip-ups.

● *IVAN YAREMCHUK will miss the European finals after breaking a leg for the second time in 19 months.*

BFC DYNAMO PLAGUED BY BAD WEATHER

EAST GERMANY

IN and out form has plagued BFC Dynamo's quest for the East German title — as well as bad weather and postponements.

Katerina Witt is, however, finally off the front pages and Konig Fussball back 'in' as is now said in the German equivalent of 'Franglais'.

By the middle of April, games will have been caught up and it looks as if Jurgen Bogs's side may have shaken off the challenge of Lok and Dynamo Dresden.

BFC's 3-1 win at Riesa against the bottom club restored light between the Dynamos while Lok Leipzig went off the rails at Frankfurt.

A 2-0 lead was surrendered and a point dropped while the police-sponsored Dynamo Dresden had to call off the search for two points in Halle and settle for a goalless draw.

Six sides are caught up in the struggle against relegation to the Liga, the second division.

Riesa are propping everyone else up after a series of four defeats and are favourites for the drop.

Hansa Rostock, last season's cup finalists, and Aue are not much better off with just one point more (15) while Union Berlin, Vorwarts Frankfurt and Rot-Weiss Erfurt are on 16.

In section A of Division Two, Energie Cottbus strive to regain Oberliga status.

The club from the Spree Woods, relegated last season, lead Post Neubrandenburg and Motor Ludwigsfelde.

In the south Section B, Sachsenring Zwickau, managed by former international keeper Jurgen Croy, have opened up a six-point lead over Chemie Leipzig and stand top with two games in hand.

Return to the Oberliga looks on the cards following a 1-0 victory at Schkopau, thanks to a goal from striker Goldner.

Sachsenring have not been beaten in the Liga since going down 3-1 to Dessau in the first week of September.

On the international front, the last of four spring internationals was played at Bourgas.

The GDR took a 30-minute lead through Stubner, his first goal at this level.

Roser of Vorwarts Frankfurt made his debut on the right of defence but in this, the 17th match with Bulgaria in 35 years, the GDR had to be content with a draw. Ivanov equalised nine minutes from the end.

Bernd Stange can draw more satisfaction from the performance than from the game in Halle with Rumania.

There were only 6,500 spectators in the Kurt-Wabbel Stadion for the first game of the year at home and a disappointing day it proved.

As in Dublin, no Steaua players appeared but their replacements proved their worth and the East Germans let certain victory slip away.

Kirsten missed the first chance after three minutes before Ernst, one of the few to show any enterprise, gave the Germans the lead.

Rumania equalised when Muller punched Boloni's curving corner into his own goal.

The Lok keeper went into the game carrying an injury and paid for it. Bodo Rudwaleit replaced him after the interval and the score finished 3-3.

The next tests come in the Olympic qualifying matches with Portugal in Aue and Iceland in Bischofswerda.

With this in mind, a friendly with the Soviet Olympic squad was arranged in Altenburg's Lenin Stadion.

Manager Harro Muller was without the injured Schossler and, but for the excellent form of Weissflog in goal, the USSR might have inflicted a much heavier deafeat on Germany.

SALLAI LEFT ON BENCH

HUNGARY

HUNGARY'S international run-up to the game in Budapest with England was anything but smooth. A 'shocker' in the Nepstadion with Turkey, won in the last minute thanks to a blunder by the visitors' substitute goalkeeper, was followed by another World Cup warm-up defeat in Brussels.

Training

For almost an hour things looked encouraging for the Magyars. Then the Belgians were awarded a penalty and Fitos followed this eight minutes later with an own goal.

Several substitutions were to no avail and the training game nature of the encounter makes one wonder whether such games should really count as 'A' internationals.

Severeyns put the lid on it with a third goal nine minutes from the end.

How the in-form Sallai of Honved can be left so long on the bench when things are going so badly is a mystery but at least his club will be pleased he came through to head their challenge for the title.

The Army side, permanently housed in the revamped Bozsik Stadion, lead the league but Tatabanya are looking dangerous, have overtaken Ujpest Dozsa,and are scoring goals.

Honved's supply has dried up and the goalless draws with Siofok and Ujpest and the 1-0 defeat at Tatabanya are worrying the management who nevertheless have an entertaining team if the football played at Easter against Ujpest is anything to go by.

On the Olympic front home games with France and the Republic of Ireland should mean four points but Hungary need to improve their goal difference and to rely on the French holding the Swedes in the last game in France in late May.

From MLADEN BILIC, NEVEN ANDJELIC and LOUIS ECONOMOPOULOS

LARISSA PENALTY REVOLT

DRIVERS on the main Greek highway between Salonika and Athens got a shock on the afternoon of March 16 on the approach to the small provincial town of Larissa.

Suddenly the roadside was swarming with heavily-armed and uniformed police and there was a strong smell of burning rubber in the air with columns of grey and black smoke rising in the distance.

Then came the traffic jam. Cars and trucks forming a futile queue ten miles long, their perplexed drivers and passengers standing in the road by their vehicles.

At the front of the queue were around 50 young men, who had created the jam with a barricade of wood and burning tyres... to protest at the Greek federation's decision to penalise 'their' unfashionable, surprising, provincial Larissa four points because Bulgarian forward Georgi Tsingov had failed a dope test after a 2-1 win over Panathinaikos on December 27.

Larissa is a town with a population of 170,000. But this season their team have been playing the best football in the first division, much to the jealous fury of big-city rivals such as Panathinaikos, AEK and crisis-hit champions, Olympiakos of Piraeus.

The decision to penalise Larissa was seen in the town itself as a deliberate attempt to wreck their team's championship bid. Hence a mobilisation of public support which brought thousands into town for a protest meeting in the main square and prompted others to set up impromptu road blocks.

Larissa's players came out to join the protests — and were promptly told to go away and get back to training so they could redouble their efforts to land the title whatever the outcome of the dope test crisis.

The fans called their protest "World War Two" — "World War One" having been the controversy and upset caused two years earlier when another provincial surprise package, OFI from Crete, became the first Greek "minnows" to break through into European competition.

Drivers' reaction to the road blocks was one of resignation, then amusement. Except for Austrian lorry drivers. One Larissa fan said: "I'm sorry we had some problems with them. They do not understand what's going on so we had to do some boxing.

"The Austrians don't have the feel for football which we do in Larissa. We have some Molotov cocktails for emergency, if somebody really doesn't want to stop..."

Altogether 14 road blocks had been set up on the roads around Larissa by angry fans. On top of that more debris was placed on the main line tracks at Larissa station. Trains were halted for two days before the debris, mainly old cars, could be cleared.

Little more than a week later Larissa got those points back on appeal to the government sports ministry. Everything in Greece has a political connection. Many Larissa fans, for example, blamed the trouble on the powerful, millionaire Vardoyiannis brothers who own, among other things, Panathinaikos.

What was the drug which Tsingov took? Codeine, because he had a sore throat and a cold.

Larissa coach Jacek Gmoch, one of the most successful foreign coaches to work in Greece, took it all in his stride.

He said: "We've had to surmount so many obstacles that one more did not make much difference. Now that is behind us I think we can see a smooth road through to the end of the season. But I warn my players to take care: we cannot afford to relax.

"Our secret? We have no secret. Just talented players, blood, sweat and tears. We aim to win our matches over 90 minutes out on the pitch, not in some committee room."

Larissa have been merely fined by the federation and Tsingov, who was not a regular member of the team anyway, has been banned for two years. But what mattered most were the precious four points whose loss had threatened to push Larissa back alongside challengers AEK and OFI.

If anyone at Panathinaikos was involved in the original controversy, they have been able to celebrate some sort of revenge. In the cup semi-finals Panathinaikos beat Larissa 1-0, 3-1 — even though Larissa had taken the lead in the second leg through Yannis Alexoulis.

Panathinaikos hit back in style, however. Dimitris Saravakos equalised just before half-time, and shot 'Pana' ahead in the 80th minute, Argentine Juan Ramon Rocha — himself no stranger to controversy — wrapped it all up with five minutes remaining.

Panathinaikos will be up against it in the May 8 final against an Olympiakos determined to rescue something from perhaps their most disastrous league campaign ever. Olympiakos, for all their poor league showing, reached the final by defeating cup-holders OFI 3-0, 0-1 (3-1 on aggregate).

Meanwhile Greek fans have been able to take rare pleasure in success at international level with the under-21 team virtually assured of a place in the European final against England or France. The young Greeks beat Czechoslovakia on the away goals rule in the quarter-final and then thrashed Holland — who had beaten holders Spain — by 5-0 in the first leg of the semi-final.

Aristides Karasavides, already the Greeks' top scorer with five goals in the competition, hit four more against the bemused Dutchmen, Greek manager Miltos Papapostolu said: "This is the best young team we have ever had. Five or six of this team will be going straight into the senior side as soon as this championship is over."

THANKS to two more goals in AEK's 3-0 home victory over Levadiakos, Denmark's Henrik Nielsen continues to lead the first division scoring charts with 17 goals, three more than Tomas Mavros of Panionios, Nielsen has scored seven with headers and five from penalties.

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WORLD SOCCER NEWSDESK

Vitosha top with seven to play

ALBANIA

ALBANIA have joined the play-off craze. Like Switzerland and Austria and most of South America, the FSHF decided that the traditional home-and-away league championship was just not good enough.

For one thing, only 14 clubs in the first division do not provide enough games to maintain a successful competition, or finance it. So the federation have reorganised the competition this season into three stages.

April saw the start of the last stage — with six teams fighting out the title section.

Nentori, who went into the last section with a four-point advantage, were confident of staying there. But they are not without chinks in their armour.

Their second phase form was not always convincing. They collected more draws than victories and clearly missed injured midfielder Muca.

Second place at the start of the last phase was held by Flamurtari of Vlore, who did well in the UEFA Cup but not quite as well in the championship.

Labinoti of Elbasan were third with hope of repeating their title success of 1984. In pursuit are up-and-coming Apollonia of Fieri, followed by Besa of Kavaje and Vllaznia of Shkoder — relying on a string of 18 to 20-year-olds.

This is the first time the top six clubs have ever come from six different towns.

Drama

At the other end of the first division, Tomori are already down along with Korriku. But Tomori did go down to the second division for the first time in 16 years without a fight. Their match against Luftetari produced real drama. Luftetari won 2-1 to finish the second phase just one point about Tomori.

That saved Luftetari from instant relegation but, with the third phase play-offs still to go, they are far from out of the woods.

Also worth a mention, for more encouraging reasons, are Beslidhja of Lezha, a small town in the north-west of Albania.

They played the best football of the second phase and failed to make the title group only because of the lack of finishing power.

As for long-time dominent clubs such as Partizani and Dinamo Tirana, the season has not been very happy. Both have been champions 14 times but now the title is beyond them.

Instead they are in the middle group of six teams — covered by only four points — who must play for their survival in the first division.

The bottom team will automatically be relegated while the second bottom team will play against the second division runners-up for the right to play top-flight soccer next season.

TOP SCORERS (at the end of the second phase): Kola (Nentori) 15; Shehu (Partizani) 14; Minga (Nentori) and Farruku (Korriku) both 12; Bubeqi (Flamurtari) and Duro (Besa) both 11.

RUMANIA

STEAUA BUCHAREST'S ultimately successful European Cup campaign overshadowed most other events in the Rumanian football world.

A shadow national side was fielded, not only in Dublin, but also in Halle for the friendly with East Germany.

For most of the game, the Germans held sway but an uncharacteristic slump in the last half-hour allowed the visitors back into the game.

With Bernd Stange's side coasting at 3-1, Andone (Dinamo) in the 79th minute and Geolgau (Craiova) in the 82nd salvaged an unlikely draw.

Manager Emerich Jenei was pleased that, despite the absence of Steaua's European stars, the DFV had been prepared to go ahead with the friendly.

Result

It had enabled him to give a number of talented newcomers a chance and he was pleased with the result.

While the Germans conducted an inquiry into how they managed only a draw, the Rumanian press was critical of Camataru, who appeared far from fit but Klein, of Corvinul Hunedoara, and Boloni, brought back from Racing Jet Brussels to win his 107th cap, were impressive.

In the championship, Dinamo have caught Steaua after 23 matches and both are on 42 points.

It has long since been a two-horse race. Piturca leads the goalscorers on 20, seven more than the whole attack of Petrolul Ploiesti, who look to be booked for relegation.

In the second division, FC Constanta hold a three-point lead over Poli Iasi and Progresul Bralia.

BULGARIA

VITOSHA are top of the table in Bulgaria with seven matches left. Sredets, the Army team, could only draw at Botev Vratza in early April which left them three points adrift but five ahead of third placed Trakia.

It is thus virtually a two-horse race for the title. Fourth and fifth Slavia and Lok are still contenders for a UEFA place so Sofia could provide all the country's challenge in Europe next season.

Vitosha, are however, losing top scorer Nasko Sirakov to Spain's Zaragoza. Good luck seems to be the current talisman of the league leaders' 26-year-old striker. Not only did he give his team the points with an away goal at Beroe but he also had a pools win. He has scored 20 goals in 26 games too!

On the international front a friendly in the run up to the forthcoming World Cup preliminaries was arranged with Czechoslovakia at the Vasily Levsky stadium. In front of a poor crowd of 5,000 an experimental team scored one in each half.

Sirakov put the Bulgars ahead after 27 minutes but made way for Kolev in the second half. Penev put the issue beyond recall for the visitors two minutes from the end. In another 'warm-up' only a draw could be managed with East Germany while the last, slim chances of reaching Seoul have gone.

In the Soviet Army Cup competition only two First Division teams — Vitosha and Slavia — were in direct opposition. It proved to be a dramatic confrontation. Vitosha twice went ahead, inevitably through Sirakov but Slavia hit back twice to earn a shoot-out.

With his team 7-6 ahead on shots from the spot Mikhailov was able to make the save which meant a semi-final place for Vitosha.

BOB VAUGHAN

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WORLD SOCCER DIARY

KEIR RADNEDGE'S EXCLUSIVE

NEW DEAL F

MONDAY, MARCH 21

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid president Jesus Gil announces the dismissal of coach Cesar Menotti. Former right winger Jose Armando Ufarte takes over as caretaker. Menotti's departure is seen as more of an attempt to cut Atletico's wage bill than direct result of the defeat by neighbours Real Madrid.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

BRITAIN: England become the first team to reach the European under-21 semi-finals when they beat Scotland 1-0 in Nottingham for a 2-0 aggregate success. David White scores in the 83rd minute.

MALTA: Malta drew 1-1 with Scotland — a moral victory for the hosts, particularly considering that goalkeeper Jim Leighton is the Scots' best player with several excellent saves.

SOVIET UNION: Oleg Blokhin's mystery-shrouded transfer from Kiev to Austrian second division club, Vorwärts Steyr, is back on again. Blokhin is expected to arrive on Friday and play for his new club the next day. He will be the third Soviet player in Austria after Anatoly Sinchenko and Sergei Shavlo.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid confirm the departure of Cesar Menotti — and Valencia sack Alfredo Di Stefano. Valencia appoint Roberto Gil as caretaker.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

ACTION: In European championship warm-up activity, England are held 2-2 at Wembley by Holland (with accompanying hooligan trouble in the centre of London), the Irish Republic beat a weakened Rumania 2-0 and Spain lose 2-1 to France. Elsewhere Northern Ireland and Poland draw 1-1 and Wales lose 2-1 to Yugoslavia . . . in the concluding European under-21 quarter-finals, Greece beat Czechoslovakia on away goals after a 2-2 draw and Holland beat holders Spain 2-1 (3-1 on agg). Italy are held 2-2 at home by France who reach the last four on a 4-3 aggregate . . . in the Olympics, France and Spain draw 1-1 in Le Havre.

ITALY: FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter says in Rome that he is seriously concerned that work has not yet begun on a TV and radio communications centre for the 1990 World Cup. Blatter says this flies in the face of undertakings given by the Italian government and broadcasting authorities five years ago. He adds: "We are amazed at the situation." He also notes that stadium redevelopment work is going too slowly and issues a veiled threat that "if necessary we could reduce the number of cities hosting the competition. ". . . a goals survey reports that one third of the 399 goals in the first division so far have been scored by foreign players . . . Juventus and Roma — also linked with French-based Uruguayan Enzo Francescoli — are reported as pursuing Nottingham Forest's Neil Webb.

SWEDEN: European finals referee Ulf Eriksson claims that bribery attempts before international matches are "very common." Eriksson, chairman of the Swedish referees' association, refuses to name clubs or nations but says he has never been offered an inducements in Britain.

THURSDAY, MARCH 24

ITALY: Glasgow Rangers' Danish defender Jan Bartram (ex-Silkeborg) flies home to Scotland from an Olympic team training camp to deny he had criticised manager Graeme Souness in an interview with a Danish journalist. The interview, reprinted in two British papers, attributed to Bartram allegations that Souness instructed him to kick opponents and a comment that Souness deserved to have been sent off for his foul on Rotariu in the Champions' Cup return against Steaua Bucharest.

FRIDAY, MARCH 25

FRANCE: Bordeaux agree a £900,000 fee with Tottenham for the end-of-season sale of striker Clive Allen to the French champions.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA fine Real Madrid £7,600 for player and crowd misbehaviour during the Champions' Cup quarter-final against Bayern Munich; Verona of Italy are fined £4,200 for player offences during the UEFA Cup-tie against Werder Bremen (Di Gennaro was sent off).

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

FRANCE: Monaco are held goalless at home by Toulon but move a point further ahead because Bordeaux lose 1-0 at Cannes. Monaco are four points up on Bordeaux, five points up on Racing.

MOROCCO: Algeria beat hosts Morocco 4-3 on penalties after a 1-1 draw after extra-time in the African Nations' Cup third-place match.

SUNDAY, MARCH 27

BELGIUM: Belgium beat Hungary 2-1 in a World Cup warm-up game.

HOLLAND: Feyenoord's home game against Utrecht is postponed as the biggest peace-time evacuation of Rotterdam takes place while bomb experts make safe a British wartime bomb. Meanwhile PSV explode to a 6-0 away win over Pec Zwolle but Ajax splutter to a 2-1 victory away to Volendam.

ITALY: Napoli draw 0-0 away to Torino but look more than ever like holding on to the *Scudetto* because Milan are held similarly goalless at Avellino while Roma lose 4-2 to Inter. Napoli lead Milan by four points, Roma by six.

SPAIN: Barcelona lose yet again at home, this time 1-0 to another crisis club, Betis. Barcelona field a weakened team to save several first-teamers for the all-important mid-week cup final against Real Sociedad.

MONDAY, MARCH 28

FRANCE: Jean-Luc Lagardere, president of Racing Paris, says Enzo Francescoli will not be sold to Italy this summer. The club intend to keep him until the end of his current contract, in 1990.

ITALY: Fiorentina grant Glenn Hysen permission to play for Sweden in the West Berlin Easter tournament. There are no Italian league matches that week because of the international against Yugoslavia . . . Juventus coach Rino Marchesi says Ian Rush will have to change his style if he wants to succeed in Italy. Marchesi complains that Rush still expects his pace to see him through, as it did in the English league with Liverpool. Here, says Marchesi, Rush must adapt to outwit the close-marking systems of Italian football.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich midfielder Andreas Brehme says he has received an offer from a foreign club and expects to leave West German football after the European championship finals.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29

EGYPT: National manager Mike Smith is dismissed by the Egyptian federation as a predictable consequence of the loss of their African Nations' crown in Morocco the previous week.

GREECE: The Greek federation is the latest to formally inform UEFA that it has no objection to a European return for English clubs.

ITALY: National manager Azeglio Vicini says Napoli midfielder Salvatore Bagni may miss the European finals because of a persistent knee injury . . . Milan police confirm 65 arrests of fans alleged to have been involved in hooligan incidents before, during and after the last Sunday's game between Inter and Roma.

WEST GERMANY: Pierre Littbarski injures an elbow in training and is doubtful for the Easter tournament in West Berlin

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

BELGIUM: In the cup quarter-finals second legs, Anderlecht beat St Trond 5-0 (6-0 on aggregate), Mechelen pip Beveren on the away goals rule (1-1, 0-0) and Lierse and Standard make up the four.

CANADA: Former Canada World Cup captain Bruce Wilson is lured out of retirement to join Pele's AIDS research fund-raising series.

ITALY: RAI, the Italian broadcasting authority, agrees to switch the site for the new international communications centre from a controversial parkland site to a disused brickworks north of Rome. This follows criticism by FIFA of building delays and a veiled threat that the World Cup might even be taken away from Italy.

POLAND: Poland beat Rumania 1-0 in an Olympic qualifier in Piotrkow with a goal from Marek Lesniak.

SOVIET UNION: National coach Valeri Lobvanovsky has been

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AL FOR TOSHACK

taken ill and will miss the Easter tournament in West Berlin. Soviet officials arriving in West Berlin refuse to confirm or deny suggestions of heart trouble. Yuri Morozov takes over the team in Lobanovsky's absence.

SPAIN: Barcelona beat holders Real Sociedad 1-0 in the Spanish cup final. Veteran skipper Jose Alesanco scores the winner after a shot from Gary Lineker is blocked . . . Jose Maria Maguregui quits as coach to Celta to strengthen rumours that he will be appointed by Atletico Madrid to succeed Cesar Luis Menotti.

WEST GERMANY: West Germany are held 1-1 in Osnabrück by Denmark in an Olympic qualifier. Arim Görtz opens the scoring for the Germans in the 55th minute. Jan Bartram creates a 75th-minute equaliser for Claus Nielsen . . . Diego Maradona arrives in West Berlin for the Easter tournament to the relief of organisers who report only 28,000 tickets sold for the opening semi-finals tomorrow . . . at a press conference UEFA president Jacques Georges launches a new criticism and a police support appeal aimed at beating the hooligan violence "which has turned our stadia into bunkers." DFB president Hermann Neuberger, explaining ticket arrangements, says that 716,000 of the total 880,000 for the 15 matches have already been sold. Top foreign interest comes from Holland (82,000 tickets sold), then Denmark (56,000). England's allocation is 33,000. Regarding European finals rules, all nine reserves will now be allowed to sit on the bench. Confusion follows an attempt to clarify the position over whether a third goalkeeper would be a member of the squad of 20 players or not.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

FRANCE: The Michel Platini Farewell will be staged at Nancy on May 23 and will feature three matches: a Lorraine XI against Juventus, the French Variety Club XI against Platini's Friends and then France against a World XI. Due to take part in one or other of the matches are Cruyff, Beckenbauer, Tresor, Rep. Zoff, Keegan and Gerd Müller.

WEST GERMANY: Two upsets in the semi-finals of the Easter tournament in West Berlin's Olympic stadium. Maradona's Argentina lose 4-2 to a superb Soviet effort while West Germany, to boos and jeers from their own fans, lose 4-2 to Sweden in a penalty shoot-out after a 1-1 draw.

YUGOSLAVIA: Yugoslavia are held 1-1 by Italy in Split. Vialli scores in ten minutes for Italy, Jakovljevic in 44 for Yugoslavia.

FRIDAY, APRIL 1

HOLLAND: PSV fine Ronald Koeman £3,000 for praising publicly a foul by team-mate Hans Gillhaus which virtually put Jean Tigana of Bordeaux out of their Champions' Cup quarter-final. Gillhaus was booked for the foul and Koeman says, in a magazine too: "My team-mates and I knew that foul was worth gold." He is also suspended for the interview.

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

BELGIUM: The Mechelen bubble goes on bursting as Mechelen lose 1-0 at home to FC Liege.

FRANCE: Glenn Hoddle scores the vital goal as Monaco win 1-0 away to Lille to stay five points clear of Bordeaux . . . in the second division Sochaux beat Nimes 2-1 to stretch their lead to 15 points with six matches to play. Sochaux are now assured of promotion.

PORTUGAL: Benfica beat Penafiel 4-0 to stay second, albeit eight points behind Porto. All four goals came in the last 16 minutes from Mozer, Chiquinho, Chalana and Rui Aguas.

SPAIN: Real Madrid cruise to a 2-0 "seaside" win in Mallorca, to establish a ten-point lead over Real Sociedad, who lose 2-0 to manager-less Celta.

WEST GERMANY: More surprises in West Berlin as Sweden beat the Soviet Union 2-0 in the final of the Easter tournament. In the third-place match, West Germany beat a niggling, grumpy Argentina by 1-0.

SUNDAY, APRIL 3

BELGIUM: Antwerp beat Waregem 2-0 and go back to the top — thanks to a surprise slip by Club Brugge who draw only 1-1 with Charleroi.

BRAZIL: Zico says he will retire in July when his current contract with Flamengo ends. Zico, who has scored almost 700 goals in a 17-year-old career, says he had hoped to play 1990 but "I'm getting tired of my injuries."

GREECE: Larissa beat Kalamaria 1-0 to stay four points clear at the top.

SPAIN: Barcelona win 2-0 away to Cadiz with goals from Carrasco and Lineker. Lineker's goal was his 12th of the season.

MONDAY, APRIL 4

BELGIUM: Crisis club Standard Liege, trying to negotiate a merger with neighbours FC Liege now, lose 2-1 at home to Winterslag.

HOLLAND: Easter Monday sees a full programme in the Dutch premier division, with the exeptions of PSV and Ajax, playing in Europe on Wednesday. Twente win 5-1 away to Haarlem to maintain thir place, two points ahead of Feyenoord but having played three games more.

SWITZERLAND: Karl-Heinz Rummenigge is fulfilling his reputation at last with Servette now he appears to have finally recovered fitness. Rummenigge hits hat-trick in 13 minutes as Servette beat Young Boys 5-1.

TUESDAY, APRIL 5

ARGENTINA: A Buenos Aires newspaper reports that Cesar Menotti, just sacked by Atletico Madrid, will take over as technical director of River Plate from June 1. The report says River want to keep the deal secret because the contract of current coach Carlos Timoteo Griguol does not expire until the end of May.

BRAZIL: Bad news for Brazilian football from a press conference to discuss the youth team's disappointing European tour. Seven matches were played: two drawn, five lost. Team doctor Serafim Borges says: "Our children, most of them badly nourished, do not have the health to face young Europeans

ITALY: Verona formally complete the signing of the £1.3million transfer which will bring Argentine wonderboy Claudio Caniggia from River Plate this summer.

SPAIN: Barcelona president Jose Luis Nunez holds a private luncheon for coaching staff and senior players to tell them that Johan Cruyff is almost certain to take over as coach next season with Luis Aragones becoming general manager — although Luis has also been offered the coaching job left vacant at Valencia with the dismissal of Alfredo Di Stefano.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

ACTION: In the Champions' Cup semi-final openers Real Madrid draw 1-1 with PSV, Steaua 0-0 with Benfica; Ajax win 3-0 at Marseille and Mechelen beat Atlanta 2-1 in the Cup-winners' Cup; in the UEFA Cup Leverkusen beat Werder Bremen 1-0 and Club Brugge beat Español 2-0 . . . Greece and Austria draw 2-2 in a friendly international in Piraeus . . . and in the European Olympic qualifiers, the Soviet Union beat Turkey 2-0, while Bulgaria beat Switzerland 2-0 . . . in the South American Supercup, Flamengo beat Estudiantes 3-0 and Peñarol beat Argentinos Juniors 1-0 in Montevideo.

ARGENTINA: National boss Carlos Bilardo defends his team's West Berlin showing, on his return to Buenos Aires. Bilardo says it is impossible to expect to win every match when new young players have to be introduced to replace stars who will be too old, or past their best, by the time of the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy.

ITALY: Europe next season looks even further away for Juventus as they lose 2-0 to neighbours Torino in a cup semi-final first leg. In the other semi-final, Internazionale are held goalless at home by Sampdoria.

MALAYSIA: Iraq pull out of the Asian Cup in protest at a late rearrangement of fixtures by the Asian confederation.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

BRAZIL: CBF president Octavio Pinto Guimaraes says the new national manager will be named in May. Candidates are Carlos Alberto da Silva (whose contract expired last December), Jair Pereira (Corinthians) and Carlos Alberto Parreira . . . Fluminense president Fabio Egypto joins the race to sign up Cesar Menotti. He says ten wealthy club supporters have put up £65,000 each to finance an 18-month contract offer.

FRANCE: Toulon say they are beginning court action against Ajax striker John Bosman for reneging on an agreement to sign a four-year contract.

ITALY: Roma president Dino Viola says he is ready "to cycle to Paris" if that will persuade Matra Racing to agree to sell Enzo Francescoli of Uruguay to the Italian club. Rome have agreed details with Francescoli and his advisers, but not with Racing . . . Milan agree to discuss with River Plate the possibility of selling Claudio Borghi (now on loan to Como) back to Argentina . . . Roma veteran Roberto Pruzzo agrees to join St Gallen in Switzerland next season.

MALAYSIA: Hosts Malaysia open the Asian Cup by predictably beating Pakistan 4-0 in Kuala Lumpur . . . Iraq ignore a last-minute plea to reconsider their withdrawal.

SAUDI ARABIA: The Saudi federation comes under furious attack from the United Arab Emirates, whose FA claims the Saudis 'poached' national boss Carlos Alberto. UAE association president, Sheik Hamdan bin Sahad, says Carlos Alberto was lured away by "the highest offer ever made to any soccer coach — £150,000 to sign plus £20,000 a month and other fringe benefits for a one-year contract."

● *Continued overleaf*

-DAY NEWS REVIEW

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

KEIR RADNEDGE'S EXCLUSIVE

BORDEAUX

● Continued from previous page

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

BRAZIL: Botafogo fullback Ronaldo has five stitches in his left arm after a free-for-all between fans and players angry at being jeered during training. Botafogo have won only three of their 12 league matches so far. Ronaldo is the third injury victim. A reserve goalkeeper was injured by a smokebomb thrown into the crowd, and World Cup veteran Eder was injured after being hit by a crutch!

BULGARIA: Vitosha striker Nasko Sirakov is sold to Spain's Zaragoza for £600,000, a record fee for a Bulgarian.

EAST GERMANY: The federation orders Lokomotiv Stendal to play their next second division match on a neutral ground after hooliganism halted a match against Vorwärts reserves. Vorwärts were 1-0 up after 83 minutes when the match officials were bombarded with missiles thrown from the crowd and other fans invaded the pitch. The match is awarded 3-0 to Vorwärts.

HOLLAND: Ex-Ajax chief Johan Cruyff admits he is seriously studying an offer to take over as coach to Barcelona.

SOVIET UNION: A string of revelations from the Soviet federation: first it is confirmed that top manager Valeri Lobanovsky is seriously ill with heart trouble; secondly, FA chief Vyacheslav Koloskov confirms that star defender Vagiz Khidiatulin is set to join a French club (probably Toulon); thirdly, that a draft document legalising professional status for footballers and ice hockey players is about to be ratified.

SPAIN: John Toshack agrees a new three-year contract with Real Sociedad.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

FRANCE: Second-half goals from Dib and Ferratge bring Monaco a 2-0 win over Brest and maintain their five-point lead over Bordeaux ... Cameroon veteran Roger Milla scores a hat-trick in Saint-Etienne's 5-0 thrashing of Montpellier.

HOLLAND: PSV Eindhoven beat AZ Alkmaar 1-0 thanks to a late goal from Kieft. PSV are assured their third successive league title. PSV led Ajax by ten points with four games to go.

WEST GERMANY: There are 30 arrests and 30 injuries as fans fight after Bayern Munich thrash Schalke 8-1. Lothar Matthäus scores a rare hat-trick.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

ARGENTINA: More hooligan trouble involving Newell's Old Boys. A youth dies in fighting during a 0-0 draw against San Lorenzo.

BELGIUM: Antwerp are held 1-1 away to Gent, so Club Brugge (2-1 home winners over Sint Truiden) pull level again at the top. Mechelen (1-0 away to Beerschot) are one point adrift in third place.

BRAZIL: Flamengo star Renato Gaucho suffers a serious knee injury after a late tackle in a 0-0 draw against America. Flamengo have already been without Zico for a month because of a recurrence of his knee trouble.

ITALY: Marco Van Basten, fit at last, makes his Milan comeback as second-half substitute for Virdis and scores a brilliant winner against Empoli. Later Van Basten calls it the "best goal of my career." ... Napoli also beat Internazionale 1-0 (thanks to a Maradona free kick) and stay four points clear ... Verona president Fernando Chiampan threatens to quit after a 1-0 defeat by Cesena.

PORTUGAL: Porto suffer their first defeat of the league season as they go down 2-1 to Sporting. But Porto still lead Benfica by six points.

SPAIN: Real Madrid stay ten points clear with a 2-0 win over Logrones which includes one spectacular goal from Mexican Hugo Sanchez. Madrid coach Leo Beenhakker says: "They should change the rules for goals like that. When one is scored they should halt the match, send the players off to get changed then crack the champagne to celebrate."

TURKEY: Hooliganism in Turkey too. The Trabzonspor v Besiktas game is abandoned by the referee in the 73rd minute after fans throw missiles at players and officials. Trouble starts after the referee awards a penalty to Besiktas, already 3-2 ahead at the time.

MONDAY, APRIL 11

BRAZIL: Rio police impound a £50,000 Mercedes car being imported by Pele, claiming this violates Brazilian law which prohibits the import of foreign automobiles. Pele's lawyers claim the car is a gift — a plea which has succeeded previously on behalf of other sports and entertainment stars ... Flamengo threaten to pull out of the Carioca (Rio) state championship in protest at violence on the pitch.

ITALY: The players' union announces that the unprecedented strike will go ahead the forthcoming Sunday — threatening pools coupons from South America to Norway.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA receive an appeal from Verona against the one-year ban imposed on Silvano Fontolan, who failed a dope test after the UEFA Cup quarter-final first leg against Werder Bremen. Verona say he had taken antibiotics which are legal in Italy, because of a bronchial problem.

UNITED STATES: USSF president Werner Fricker welcomes FIFA's 1994 World Cup fact-finding mission at the start of their week-long, 13-city tour of the US to assess facilities.

TUESDAY, APRIL 12

BRAZIL: Star players suggest strike action if nothing is done to crack down against the 'men of violence.' Flamengo's latest victim, Renato Gaucho, says: "Violence on the pitch is destroying the art of Brazilian soccer. We didn't win the World Cup three times like this. But it's club officials I blame more than the referees. The referees are afraid to get tough because if they do they won't get the big games."

CHILE: Everton of Chile are ordered by FIFA to pay £50,000 compensation to Atlas of Mexico for failing to honour an agreement to transfer star forward Ivo Basay last year, Basay was later sold to French club, Reims. The compensation order was originally for £15,000 until the Mexicans appealed.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA: The Czechoslovaks beat Austria 1-0 in an Olympic qualifier in Nitra.

WEST GERMANY: Cup-holders Hamburg are knocked out, beaten 2-0 in a semi-fnal by Bochum. Martin Kree (27) and Poland's Andrzej Iwan (60) score the vital goals.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

ACTION: Bulgaria and East Germany draw 1-1 in a friendly in Bourgas ... in the European under-21 semi-finals, first legs, France beat England 4-2 in Besancon and Greece surprisingly thrash Holland 5-0 — thanks to four goals from Aris Karasavides ... in the Olympic qualifiers, Greece beat Rumania 1-0, East Germany beat Portugal 3-0 and Dino Zoff's Italy come closer to Seoul thanks to a 3-0 win over Holland in Padua ... in a South American Supercup group six final, first leg, match, Olimpia of Paraguay beat River Plate 2-0.

ARGENTINA: National boss Carlos Bilardo says Diego Maradona will not play in Australia's anniversary tournament in July. Bilardo says: "I have told Diego he must take a break — forget about everything to do with football for at least a month. Anyway, it will be good to see how we get along without him."

BELGIUM: The cup final will be between Standard Liege and holders Mechelen. In the semis, Standard beat Lierse 3-1 and Mechelen beat Anderlecht — who defeated them in the Supercup — by 2-1.

BRAZIL: More chaos. This time in the Paulista championship, with a local magistrate's order than Ponte Preta and Bandeirante, relegated last season, should be reinstated immediately in the Sao Paulo first division. The CBF suspend the championship while attempts made to resolve the deadlock.

HOLLAND: Ajax are knocked out of the cup, beaten 2-1 in the quarter-finals by second division Roman Catholic Combination ... Johan Cruyff says he is becoming impatient with Barcelona over negotiations which would lead him taking over during the summer. Cruyff, who walked out on Ajax in January and is now being tempted to stay home by Utrecht, says: "I'm not waiting any more. If Barcelona don't put a contract on the table the talks will be over. I don't understand the way the club are behaving. Everyone was in a hurry before. Now they all seem to have forgotten I exist." However club officials at Barcelona say an announcement is expected shortly.

ITALY: The players' strike is called off after a private meeting between union leader Sergio Campana and federation president Antonio Matarrese. The federation agrees to consider at the end of next season whether "economic and technical conditions" are suitable to allow foreign players to be imported directly into the second division.

SPAIN: Atletico Madrid sack caretaker coach Jose Armando Ufarte. ... a move to permit a third import per team from next season is put on ice by the league committee of the federation.

SWITZERLAND: As expected, Xamax Neuchatel's West German veteran Uli Stielike announces his retirement at the season's end because of knee trouble ... Lars Lunde, Danish striker of FC Aarau, escapes with 'only' concussion after his car is hit by a train on a level crossing as he returns from a 2-1 away win over Young Boys Bern.

WEST GERMANY: Eintracht Frankfurt beat league leaders Werder Bremen 1-0 to reach the cup final in West Berlin on May 28. Frank Schulz scores the winner just before half-time.

THURSDAY, APRIL 14

PORTUGAL: FC Porto say the pending transfer of Rabah Madjer to Bayern Munich at the season's end has not been agreed with them.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

FRANCE: A shock for leaders Monaco, who go down 3-0 away to Saint-Etienne. But it's a shock cushioned by news that pursuers Bordeaux (five points behind) have lost 1-0 in Lille.

VE GLOBAL NEWS SERVICE

UX SIGN ALLEN

SWITZERLAND: UEFA's disciplinary committee ban PSV star Ronald Koeman for three matches for his comments in praise of Hans Gillhaus's foul on Bordeaux's Jean Tigana in a Champions' Cup quarter-final. This means he would miss the semi-final return against Real Madrid and — if PSV win through — the final in Stuttgart.

WEST GERMANY: Werder Bremen recover from their cup failure to stretch their championship lead. Werder beat FC Homburg 3-0 while Bayern Munich lose 2-1 at Hannover. Werder now lead Bayern and Köln by six points.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

AUSTRALIA: The ASF bans Gary McDowell, 29-year-old defender, for six months, which includes the Olympics in Seoul. McDowell attracted all sorts of bad publicity during the qualifying tournament when he trod on the head of an injured Israeli player. McDowell had already been fined by Aussie manager Frank Arok and suspended for three games by FIFA.

GUYANA: The 1990 World Cup action gets under way in Georgetown with Guyana losing 4-0 at home to Trinidad and Tobago.

ITALY: Suddenly the title race is wide open. Juventus come back from the dead to put three goals past champions Napoli — Ian Rush scoring one and making one — and Milan win impressively 2-0 away to Roma to move within two points of the leaders with four games to go. Internazionale beat Fiorentina 3-0 but there is more trouble in the camp when 'rested' Argentine veteran Daniel Passarella refuses to sit on the substitutes' bench.

SPAIN: Real Madrid take it easy, resting all but three first-teamers as they draw 0-0 away to Celta while Real Sociedad lose 2-0 in Barcelona. Madrid thus move back nine points clear. Crisis-torn Atletico win 1-0 at home to Las Palmas.

UNITED STATES: Penarol gain revenge over Porto for their World Club Cup beating when they defeat the Portuguese side 4-3 on penalties in Newark, New Jersey, after a 0-0 draw.

. . . FIFA's 1994 World Cup inspection team flies out after what Scottish FA secretary Ernie Walker describes as "a very positive experience."

MONDAY, APRIL 18

BELGIUM: The trial of 26 Liverpool fans, former Belgian FA secretary Alfred Roosens, and two officers, for their roles in the Heysel disaster, is opened and adjourned until October 17.

WEST GERMANY: Bayern Munich confirm that midfielder Lothar Matthäus will join Internazionale, signing a three-year contract to move as soon as the European championship have been completed . . . dope tests are being introduced next season.

TUESDAY, APRIL 19

SWITZERLAND: UEFA announce that retired French superstar Michel Platini is being appointed 'UEFA ambassador' for the European championship finals. He will also act as technical adviser to UEFA president Jacques Georges — whatever that means.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20

ACTION: The European club semi-final second legs are resolved: in the Champions' Cup PSV beat Real Madrid on away goals (1-1 aggregate) and Benfica beat Steaua 2-0 (2-0); in the Cup-winners' Cup Ajax lose 2-1 at home to Marseille but win 4-2 overall and face Mechelen (2-1 winners again against Atalanta) in the final; in the UEFA Cup Espanol beat Brugge 3-0 (3-2 overall) after extra time, while Bayer Leverkusen hold off Werder Bremen (1-0 aggregate) . . . in the Olympic qualifiers, Denmark beat Greece 4-0 in Aalborg — Flemming Povlsen (two), Brian Laudrup and Claus Nielsen get the goals.

FRANCE: Midfielder Philippe Vercruysse is recalled for the first time in 18 months by France for the international against Northern Ireland. Missing will be Eric Cantona, needed for the under-21 semi-final return against England.

GREECE: Panathinaikos and Olympiakos qualify for the cup final. Panathinaikos beat league leaders Larissa 3-1 away (4-1 on aggregate) and Olympiakos, bidding to resurrect a season of crisis, beat OFI 1-0 (3-1 aggregate) in Heraklion.

ITALY: Juventus lost perhaps their last chance of a place in Europe next season. They beat neighbours Torino 2-1 in a cup semi-final second leg, but are eliminated 3-2 on aggregate. In the final Torino face Sampdoria, who beat Inter 1-0 on the day and on aggregate. National team striker Roberto Mancini scores the decisive goal in the 26th minute . . . Internazionale admit that they would like to sign Rabah Madjer. But "we don't want to get into controversy with Bayern Munich."

MALAYSIA: Malaysia pull out of the President's Cup in Seoul after a disastrous performance in the Asian Cup qualifiers the previous week. Malaysia finished bottom of their group, behind Kuwait, Japan and Jordan.

PERU: Tele Santana, Brazil's former World Cup boss in 1982 and 1986, is offered the job of national coach with Peru. Santana says he will decide when his Atletico Mineiro contract expires in July.

SWITZERLAND: Reprieve for PSV's Ronald Koeman after his appeal against a three-match ban for publicly glorying in a crippling tackle on Jean Tigana. UEFA cut the ban from three games to one. He misses the evening's duel with Real Madrid but will be free for the final against Benfica.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21

BRAZIL: Flamengo reject a £1 million offer from Italian club Bologna for right winger Renato Gaucho. Flamengo, also expecting an offer from Verona, put a price of £2 million on Renato's head . . . Zico calls on the government to order the Brazilian sports council to crack down on violent conduct and foul play in football. Zico says: "What we need is a rule which says any player who fouls another cannot play until his victim is fit again. It's no wonder the fans are staying away. They want to see the stars but the stars are always out injured."

ITALY: Ascoli decide they do not want to extend for another season the loan of Hugo Maradona, from Napoli.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA name the referees for the European club finals. Italy's Luigi Agnolin will referee the Champions' Cup; West Germany's Dieter Pauly the Cup-winners' Cup; and Czechoslovakia's Dusan Krchnak and Holland's Jan Keizer the two legs of the UEFA Cup final (first leg in Barcelona) . . . Swiss manager Daniel Jeandupeaux recalls Young Boys midfielder Erni Maissen, for the first time in 18 months, for the friendly against West Germany.

WEST GERMANY: Lothar Matthäus formally completes all the details for his transfer from Bayern Munich to Internazionale, which will be sealed for £2.5 million after the finals of the European championship. Matthäus agrees a three-year contract. Also leaving Bayern could be Belgian goalkeeper Jean-Marie Pfaff who, according to general manager Uli Hoeness, interests Borussia Mönchengladbach . . . struggling FC Homberg lose the second stage of their fight to carry condom advertisements on their shirts. A Frankfurt civil court supports the ban ordered by the DFB. The DFB must now make a final decision on May 3. The contract would be worth £80,000 a year to Homburg.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22

FRANCE: Klaus Allofs tells West German officials from Marseille that he must miss the friendly against Switzerland. He is to undergo minor surgery to examine his injured left knee.

ITALY: Manager Azeglio Vicini again overlooks veteran Allesandro Altobelli and Salvatore Bagni as he names his squad for the friendly against Luxembourg — though both are expected to return to the European championship.

JAPAN: Pele's all-star series to raise money for Aids research kicks off with a 2-0 win over a Japan XI in Tokyo. A minor leg injury prevents Pele playing but the 48,000 crowd (raising £40,000) see goals from Bruce Wilson and Johnny Rep. Also appearing are Pat Jennings, Eusebio, George Best, Paolo Rossi and Johan Neeskens.

SPAIN: Miguel Munoz names nine Real Madrid players in his squad for the friendly against Scotland. Major absentees are long-term injury victim Andoni Goicoecha (Atletico Madrid) and Real Sociedad winger Jose Maria Baquero, recovering from minor knee surgery.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA reject an appeal from Verona against a one-year European club suspension imposed on defender Silvano Fontolan who failed a dope test after the UEFA Cup quarter-final first leg against Werder Bremen. Fontolan claimed he had taken medicine for a bronchial problem before the game. UEFA say their test found traces of cropropamid and crothetamid, banned stimulants of the central nervous system . . . the Swiss federation executive committee formally decides to go ahead with an application to host the 1998 World Cup after obtaining redevelopment agreements with controlling authorities of ten major stadia.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

BRITAIN: Liverpool beat Tottenham 1-0, with a 33rd-minute strike from Peter Beardsley, to secure the English league championship . . . Celtic are crowned in Scotland after beating Dundee 3-0 (goals from Morris and Walker, two).

FRANCE: Jean-Pierre Papin, injured against Ajax in midweek, pulls out of the French squad to play Northern Ireland in Belfast. Philippe Fargeon takes over . . . in the cup third round, second leg, ties Nice beat Toulouse on penalties and second division promotion favourites Sochaux complete their victory (1-0 and 3-2 on aggregate) over first division Montpellier.

SPAIN: Espanol are held 1-1 at home by Bilbao. Espanol are without five of their midweek UEFA Cup heroes because of injury and fatigue.

TURKEY: The semi-official Anatolian news agency announces that government and football officials have agreed the first senior internationals between Turkey and Greece for 36 years. They will play in Istanbul on September 21 and in Athens on March 29 next year.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS. . . INTERNATIONAL RESULTS. . .

JANUARY

Doha — intl friendly
Qatar 2
Bulgaria 3 (Kirov 57, Alexandrov 62, Stoichkov 72)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 1,500.

Bulgaria: Mikhailov (Valov) — Nikolov, Z. Ivanov, Vasev — Iliev, Kirov, H. Kolev (H. Stoichkov), Sadkov (Bezinski), L. Penev (Bonchev), Iordanov (Alexandrov), Stoiev (Kiryakov).

BULGARIA have made a tidy little sum this spring, touring round the Middle East and Africa helping the local nations prepare for their regional championships — and doing their own World Cup preparations no harm along the way, either.

Dubai — intl friendly
United Arab Emirates 0
Bulgaria 3 (Iliev 22, Kolev 35, Sadkov 75pen)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,000.

Bulgaria: Mikhailov (Valov) — Nikolov, Z. Ivanov, Bezinski (Vasev), Iliev, Sadkov, Bonchev (Stoiev), Iordanov (Alexandrov), Penev, H. Kolev, Kirov (Kiryakov).

Dubai — intl friendly
United Arab Emirates 1
Bulgaria 3 (Sadkov pen, Kolev, Alexandrov)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 2,000.

Bulgaria: Mikhailov (Valov 35) — Nikolov, Ivanov, Vasev, Iliev, Kiryakov, H. Kolev, Sadkov (Bonchev 46), Alexandrov, Iordanov, Stoiev.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Haifa — intl friendly
Israel 0
Rumania 2 (Bölöni 13, Ciuca 71)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Van der Leer (Hol).

Israel: Ram (Ginzburg 46) — A. Cohen, Klinger, David, Amar — Shimonov, Ohana, Malmilian, Ovidia — Brailowsky, Rosenthal.

Rumania: Lung — Ciuca, Andone, Rednic, Sandoi — Sabau (Lupescu 81), Bölöni, Mateut (Goanta 70), Klein — Tirba (Vaiscovici 46), Coras.

A SECOND defeat in three games for Israel after a match in which Rumania, for whom Marcel Coras made his international comeback, never looked in danger.

Cairo — intl friendly
Egypt 1
Bulgaria 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,000.

Bulgaria: Mikhailov — Nikolov (Dochev 60), Rakov, Vasev — Iliev, Kiryakov — H. Kolev (Kirov 46), Sadkov (Iordanov 65), L. Penev, Sirakov, Stoichkov.

AFRICAN champions Egypt were preparing to defend their title in Morocco. Thus this was to prove one of their home appearances under the management of Mike Smith.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3

Mohammedia — intl friendly
Morocco 2
East Germany 1
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,000.

East Germany: Müller — Stahmann, Kreer, Zötzsche, Liebers, Stübner, Ernst, Steinmann, Doll, Kirsten, Sammer.

AS a warm-up match this was much more important for Morocco than for the East Germans — the Moroccans were preparing for the bid to land the African Nations' Cup in their own back yard.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10

Tripoli — intl friendly
Libya 1
Malta 0
ABANDONED at 40 minutes after part of a stand collapses following fighting in the crowd. Estimated 20 dead.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16

Budapest — intl friendly
Hungary 1 (Kiprich 89)
Turkey 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,000. **Ref:** Diakonowicz (Pol).

Hungary: Szendrei — Heredi, E. Kovacs, Balog — Farkas (Sallai 64), Fitos, Bognar, Sass — Kiprich, Szabadi (Katona 64), K. Kovacs (Gyimesi 46).

Turkey: Fatih (Okan Gedikali 88) — Ismail (Erdal Keser 55), Gokan Gedikali, Yusuf, Semih — Ali Gultiken, Unal, Iskender, Ridvan (Cetin 55) — Selcuk (Onatli 66), Tanju (Metin Tekin 80).

A LAST-MINUTE blunder by Okan, Turkey's substitute keeper — who had only just appeared in goal — presented the Magyars with a barely-deserved victory after a poor game which can have been little help to the new Hungarian management duo of Laszlo Balint and Jozsef Tajti. The Hungarians also 'won' 7-3 on corners.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22

Valletta — intl friendly
Malta 1 (Busuttil 54)
Scotland 1 (Sharp 21)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Courtney (Eng).

Malta: Cluett — Camilleri, A. Azzopardi, Zirncat, Scicluna, Buttigieg, Busuttil, Vella, Carabott, Micallef (Scerri 10), Degeorgio.

Scotland: Leighton — Clarke, Malpas, Aitken, McLeish, Miller, I. Ferguson, Durrant, Sharp, McCoist (McClair 51), Mackay (McInally 55).

SCOTLAND deserved their half-time lead through Graeme Sharp's 21st-minute header. But in the second half Malta battled back in spirited fashion. Carmel Busuttil equalised, converting a cross from the right, and after that it was the Scots who came under the greater pressure. Had it not been for some sharp stops by goalkeeper Jim Leighton, Andy Roxburgh's team could have been on the wrong end of a nasty shock. Leighton's best effort was a diving save to foil Martin Scicluna.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23

Sofia — intl friendly
Bulgaria 2 (Sirakov 27, Penev 87)
Czechoslovakia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Peschel (EG)

Bulgaria: Mikhailov — Dochev, Pakov, Kochev, N. Iliev, Kiryakov, R. Zdravkov, Sadkov (Bonchev 85), Penev, Sirakov (H. Kolev 59), Stoichkov.

Czechoslovakia: Miklosko — Levy (Weiss 70), Straka, Hasek, Vlk, Bilek, Skuhravy, Chovanec, Luhovy, Kubik (Griga 56), Knoflicek.

NASKO Sirakov maintained the scoring form which had earned a prospective transfer to Spain with the goal which sent Bulgaria on their way to a deserved victory. Czechoslovakia looked more dangerous after Griga appeared as a second-half substitute and it was not until just before the end that Penev secured victory for Bulgaria.

Wembley — intl friendly
England 2 (Lineker 13, Adams 65)
Holland 2 (Adams og 20, Bosman 25)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 74,590. **Ref:** Prokop (EG)

England: Shilton — Stevens, Sansom, Steven, Adams, Watson (Wright 72), Robson, Webb (Hoddle 69), Beardsley (Hateley 35), Lineker, Barnes.

Holland: Van Breukelen — Troost, Silooy, R. Koeman, Van Aerle, Wouters, Vanenburg, Muhren, Bosman, Gullit (Kruzen 62), Van't Schip (Koot 85).

AN entertaining evening's work which probably left Holland's Rinus Michels the more satisfied manager. Inspired, as long as he was around, by Ruud Gullit, the Dutchman showed plenty of technical skill and tactical common sense which should stand them in good stead for the rematch in the European finals in Düsseldorf. However England also found plenty of holes in the Dutch defence. Gary Lineker's acceleration punished hesitation in the 13th minute and Tony Adams's header punished a failure in the air in the 65th. By then Gullit had taken himself off with cramp. In his 65 minutes on the pitch he had played a key role in both Dutch goals. First it was his lurking threat which provoked Adams to score an own goal in the 20th minute. Then Gullit was four times involved in the build-up which brought an exciting goal from John Bosman.

Bordeaux — intl friendly
France 2 (Passi 9, Fernandez 26)
Spain 1 (Caldere 6)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 14,441. **Ref:** Midgley (Eng).

France: Bats — Sonor, Le Roux, Kastendeuch, Amoros (Basile Boli 78) — Fernandez, Bijotat (Dib 83), Durand, Passi — Papin, Cantona.

Spain: Zubizarreta — Chendo, Tendillo, Sanchis, Lopez Rekarte (Soler 42) — Gordillo, Michel, Gallego, Caldere — Butragueño, Baquero.

EUROPEAN finalists Spain are struggling. This was their third warm-up friendly but it left them with two defeats and still seeking a victory in 1988. Manager Miguel Muñoz began with seven players from Real Madrid. But they wasted the advantage of an early lead and were overtaken by a French team which discovered a little of the sparkle which made them European champions four years ago. The teams had not met since the European Final of 1984 and only five survivors bridged the gap — Frenchmen Bats, Amoros, Le Roux and Fernandez plus the sole Spaniard, Gallego. A blunder by Le Roux proved costly after six minutes. He mistimed a back pass and Bats brought down Baquero. Bats blocked Michel's spot-kick but the rebound was deflected by Kastendeuch into the path of Ramon Caldere, who put Spain ahead. Three minutes later France were level. Zubizarreta punched a clearance to Dominique Bijotat, whose cross was headed home by Gerald Passi — a sort of poor man's Platini. In the 26th minute France were ahead. Again it was a Zubizarreta clearance which only created trouble as Luis Fernandez acrobatically volleyed home from 25 yards. Spain came close to an equaliser only once, when Michel hit a post early in the second half.

Athens — intl friendly
Greece 0
Soviet Union 4 (Protasov 2, 49, 57, Litovchenko 17)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Neuner (WG).

TURF ADVISORY SERVICE

TAS

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The Advisory Panel Secretariat
The Institute of Groundsmanship
19-23 Church Street
The Agora
Wolverton
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK12 5LG

Telephone: Milton Keynes (0908) 312511

Established in 1934

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS... INTERNATIONAL RESULTS...

Greece: Khitsiudis (Manikas 46) — Apostolakis, Kolomitrusis, Manolas (Kanaras 46), Michos (Antoniou 73) — Kofidis, Saravakos, Tsekos (80), Tsalukidis, Zioghas (Samaras 46) — Mitropulos, Karapialis (Skartados 73).

Sov. Union: Dassayev (Chanov 85) — Suktristov, Baltacha, Kuznetsov, Khidiatulin (Pasulko 46), Rats, Yakovenko, Litovchenko, Zavarov (Gotsmanov 61) — Protasov, Belanov (Rodionov 73).

AN important win for the Soviets after their previously uninspired 4-1 defeat by Italy. Oleg Protasov, Oleg Blohin's successor at Kiev Dynamo, took the scoring honours while the other Soviet goal fell to Kiev's other major signing this past winter, Gennadi Litovchenko. Interesting that former star and national manager Nikita Simonyan was reported as accompanying the Soviet team — lending further credence to rumours that manager Valeri Lobanovsky had suffered a heart attack.

Belfast — intl friendly
N. Ireland 1 (D. Wilson 1)
Poland 1 (Dziekanowski 32)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Gifford (Wal).

N. Ireland: McKnight — Fleming, Worthington, Donaghy, McDonald, D. Wilson, Penney (Campbell 70), Quinn (K. Wilson 78), Clarke, Whiteside, O'Neill (Rogan 60).

Poland: Wandzik — Kubicki, Boniek, Lukasik, Wdowczyk — Tarasiewicz (Karas 46), Komornicki (Cisek 83), Ziober (Araszkiewicz 69), Urban — Dziekanowski, Kosecki.

POLAND recalled Zbigniew Boniek from international retirement to organise their defence but before he had had a chance to do so the Irish went ahead in 56 seconds after the Poles had failed to clear a Nigel Worthington free kick. It took some useful saves from Allen McKnight — when did any club, like Celtic now, provide both Irish national goalkeepers? — to keep Poland at bay. But he was beaten in the 32nd minute by a low drive from 25 yards by Dariusz Dziekanowski. The Irish had now won only one game in their last 12.

Dublin — intl friendly
Rep. Ireland 2 (Moran 20, Kelly 89)
Rumania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Martin (Eng).

Rep. Ireland: Bonner — C. Morris, Grimes, McCarthy (Anderson 46), Moran, Sheridan, Galvin (L. O'Brien 70), Byrne, Stapleton (N. Quinn 52), Kelly, Sheedy.

Rumania: Moraru — M. Popa, Rednic, Andone, Stanescu — Mateut, Bölöni, Coras, Sabau — Vaiscovici (Lasconi 46), Camataru.

JACK Charlton was happy to take a look at several more players although the Rumanians, without the Steaua Bucharest contingent, were more of a B team than full international standard. Frank Stapleton made a useful comeback for the Irish and David Kelly had a lively time in attack — well-deserving his last-minute goal. Lurid rumours claimed that the Steaua players were absent in protest over the Graeme Souness school of tackling. In fact that afternoon they were catching up on a fixtures backlog occasioned by their European commitments and were winning 1-0 away to Corvinul Hunedoara in the league (goal by Lacatus, for what it's worth).

Swansea — intl friendly
Wales 1 (Saunders 7)
Yugoslavia 2 (Stojkovic 43, Jakovljevic 72)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,985. **Ref:** Stewart (NI)

Wales: Southall – Horne (Hall 80), Blackmore, Van Den Hauwe, Jackett, Phillips, Williams, Nicholas, Rush, James (Bowen 68), Saunders.

Yugoslavia: Radaca – Vulic – Hadzibegic, Radanovic – Brnovic, Katanec (Krivokapic 85), Stojkovic, Bazdarevic – Savicevic, Jakoljevic, Skoro (Pancev 74).

NORWICH coach David Williams ended his one-month caretaker role as Wales manager a disappointed man. Wales started brightly with Dean Saunders taking his goal in style. But defensive misunderstandings and lax marking allowed Dragan Stojkovic to hit a neat equaliser and then, in the second half, Dragan Jakovljevic to snatch the winner. The goal was a Welsh disaster. Van Den Hauwe attempted a suicidal backpass which stuck in the mud and Skoro beat the onrushing Southall to present Jakovljevic with an open goal.

SATURDAY, MARCH 26

Brussels — intl friendly
Belgium 3 (Ceulemans 54 pen, Fitos og 59, Severeyns 80)
Hungary 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,500. **Ref:** Holzmann (Aus).

Belgium: Preud'homme – Grun, Clijsters, Demol (Mommens 46), Vervoort – Emmers, Franky Van der Elst, Ceulemans, Creve – Nilis (Van der Linden 46), Degryse (Severeyns 65).

Hungary: P. Disztl – Pinter – Farkas (Sallai 76), Kozma, Balog, Sass (Preszeller 82) – Varga, Fitos (E. Kovacs 76), Bognar (Gyimesi 59) – Kiprich, Vincze (K. Kovacs 73).

BELGIUM, with a new team manager in Walter Meeuws already in the wings, made short work of a lot of Hungarians in this match – a friendly with a World Cup warm-up purpose. Once Hungary were 2-0 down they brought on a succession of five substitutes. Belgian skipper Jan Ceulemans scored an own goal trying to clear after a raid organised by Van der Linden and Ceulemans. Belgian substitute Severeyns made it 3-0 ten minutes from time.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30

Halle — intl friendly
East Germany 3 (Ernst 11, Zötzsche 38 pen, Steinmann 57)
Rumania 3 (Bölöni 20, Andone 78, Geolgau 83)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Steigel (Cz).

E. Germany: Müller (Rudwaleit 46) – Kreer, Lindner, Stahmann, Zötsche – Stübner (Sammer 63), Pilz, Steinmann (Rabb 75) – Kirsten, Ernst, Thom.

Rumania: Moraru – M. Popa (Stanescu 46), Rednic, Andone, Ciuca – Sabau, Mateut (Sandoi 82), Klein, Bölöni – Coras (Lasconi 72), Camataru (Geolgau 46).

AN entertaining game finished with honours even. Again Rumania were without the Steaua brigade, back home beating Brasov 2-0 (goals from Piturca and Hagi) in a rearranged league match. Ladislau Bölöni was the Rumanians' star — scoring their first goal direct from a corner and providing the free kick from Andone turned on for Geolgau to grab the late, last equaliser at 3-3. Bölöni, now playing in Belgium for Racing Jet of Brussels, was playing his 107th international. Despite being 35, the Rumanians seem set on him going on and on until he cracks Pat Jennings's world record of 119 full internationals.

THURSDAY, MARCH 31

West Berlin tmt — semi-final
Soviet Union 4 (Zavarov 14, Litovchenko 15, Protasov 62, 80 pen)
Argentina 2 (Troglio 18, Maradona 67)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Quiniou (Fr).

Sov. Union: Dassayev – Besonov, Baltacha, Kuznetsov, Demianenko, Rats, Sulakvelidze (Yakovenko 75), Litovchenko (Gosmanov 83), Zavarov, Protasov, Belanov (Pasuklo 76).

Argentina: Pumpido – Olarticoechea (Clausen 46), Brown (Garre 55), Diaz, Giusti, Ruggeri, Sensini, Troglio, Cuciuffo, Maradona, Caniggia.

OLEG Protasov, hat-trick hero the previous week against Greece, scored twice as the Soviets contained Maradona and beat the World Cup-holders in exciting style. The West Berlin tournament had been arranged by the West German federation as a political consolation for the exclusion of the city from the European championship venues list. Not that the Berliners poured out in support or interest. The stayaways missed a first-class display by the Soviets. They quickly established a two-goal lead. In the 14th minute Alexander Zavarov shot home from 20 yards after Argentina failed to clear their lines. Then Vasily Rats crossed from the left for Gennadi Litovchenko to beat Pumpido from close range. Argentina, fielding eight members of the 1986 World Cup-winners, pulled one back when Verona-bound youngster Claudio Caniggia crossed fro Pedro Troglio to shoot home. Early in the second half sweeper Brown limped off and the Soviets exploited the subsequent Argentine disorganisation. In the 62nd Demianenko broke through on the left and skipped in a short pass which Protasov converted. At the other end Besonov fouled Caniggia and then deflected Maradona's free kick beyond Dassayev. The waltz of the substitutes was well under way when the Soviets completed the scoring with a Protasov penalty after Sensini brought down Zavarov.

West Berlin — intl semi-final
West Germany 1 (Allofs 42)
Sweden 1 (Truedsson 74)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Hartmann (Hun).
Sweden 4-2 on pens

W. Germany: Immel – Berthold (Reuter 74), Frontzek, Kohler, Herget, Buchwald, Litbarski (Rolff 74), Matthäus, Völler, Thon, Allofs (Eckstein 46).

Sweden: Möller – R. Nilsson, Hysen, Larsson, Schiller, Thern, Stromberg, Prytz, Holmqvist, Ekstroem (L. Nilsson 68), Gren (Truedsson 60; Rehn 83).

WEST GERMAN fans booed and jeered as Franz Beckenbauer's men crashed out of contention in their own event in the first match. The penalty shoot-out proved fatal. Lothar Matthäus lofted his shot over the bar while Rudi Völler shot straight at veteran Swedish keeper Jan Möller. Klaus Allofs put West Germany ahead in the 42nd minute with a free kick from just outside the penalty area. But Sweden were the better team in the second half and substitute Peter Truedsson scrambled home a 74th-minute equaliser after Glenn Hyson nodded down a cross.

Split intl friendly
Yugoslavia 1 (Jakovljevic 44)
Italy 1 (Vialli 10)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Kohl (Aus).

Yugoslavia: Radaca – Stanojkovic (Tosic 81), Miljus, Katanec, Vulic, Radanovic, Stojkovic (Krivokapic 87), Brnovic, Pancev (Asanovic 81), Savicevic, Jakovljevic.

Italy: Zenga – Bergomi, Francini (Maldini 53), F. Baresi, Ferri, De Agostini (Fusi 65), Donadoni, De Napoli, Mancini, Giannini, Vialli.

EUROPEAN finalists Italy were satisfied with their draw, having taken an early lead with a header by Gianluca Vialli after a move begun by stopper Ricardo Ferri and continued by Vialli's Sampdoria team-mate, Roberto Mancini. Yugoslavia hit backand Zenga had to make several sharp saves — including one in the 30th minute from a point-blank shot by Jakovljevic. Finally the same player succeeded with about 30 seconds remaining in the first half. Stojkovic found Savecevic — the Slavs' man of the match — who beat Franco Baresi and crossed from Jakovljevic to head home. In the second half Italy created only one opening and then keeper Radaca saved at the feet of De Napoli. Italy manager Azeglio Vicini said: "I am not unhappy. Yugoslavia planned their game well and we are still making last-minute adjustments for the European finals."

SATURDAY, APRIL 2

West Berlin tmt — final
Sweden 2 (Eskilsson 52, Holmqvist 88)
Soviet Union 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Van Langenhove (Bel).

Sweden: T. Ravelli – R. Nilsson, Hysen, Larsson, Schiller (Ljung 79), Thern (Stromberg 46), Rehn, Prytz, J. Nilsson, Eskilsson, Holmqvist.

Sov. Union: Dassayev – Sulakvelidze, Baltacha, Kuznetsov, Demianenko (Rodionov 76), Rats, Yakovenko (Aleinikov (68), Litovchenko, Zavarov, Protasov, Pasulko (Gotsmanov 40).

SWEDEN surprisingly carried off the West Berlin title – not bad for a country invited to the tournament only because France said No. The Soviets never matched the standard of their victory over West Germany though Protasov wasted an early chance. In defence the Soviets were hesitant. Hans Eskilsson, replacing injured Johnny Ekstroem, and Joakim Nilsson, missed opportunities of their own. Eskilsson was eventually on target to put Sweden ahead in the 52nd minute. One minute after Dassayev had made two superb saves from Prytz and Eskilsson, the Sweden forward converted a Hasse Holmqvist cross. In the 67th minute Eskilsson had a 'goal' disallowed for hands. But two minutes from time Holmqvist ensured Sweden's final triumph when his free kick was deflected beyond Dassayev by the wall. Among the spies in Berlin were Bobby Robson (England), Rinus Michels (Holland), Jackie Charlton (Republic of Ireland) and Sepp Piontek (Denmark). England, of course, face the Soviet Union in their opening European finals group and then Sweden in the next World Cup qualifiers.

West Berlin tmt — third-place match
West Germany 1 (Matthäus 30)
Argentina 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Röthlisberger (Swz)

W. Germany: Immel – Berthold

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS... LEAGUE TABLES ... LEAUE T

(Brehme 46), Borowka, Kohler (Pflüger 59), Herget, Rolff, Klinsmann, Matthäus, Völler, Thon, Eckstein (Neubarth 80).

Argentina: Pumpido – Batista, Brown, Hernan Diaz, Giusti, Ruggeri, Sensini (Rodriguez 73), Troglio, Monzon, Maradona, Caniggia.

WEST GERMANY made four changes, which produced — according to team chief Beckenbauer — "a different approach, a different attitude." They also produced a victory thanks to a Lothar Matthäus header to a Rudi Völler cross. Matthäus and Völler had both come close earlier on. As for Argentina, their best effort was a 35th-minute free kick from Diego Maradona which Immel tipped over the bar. In the second half Maradona and Co grew more and more frustrated and unhappy. Six players were booked — including Maradona on a day when he forgot about his great talents and indulged in a series of histrionics which earned him no friends, only critics.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6

Piraeus — intl friendly
Greece 2 (Saravakos 1, Skartados 24)
Austria 1 (Zask 20, Willfurth 59)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 8,000. **Ref:** Longhi (It).

Greece: Sarganis – Mitsibonas, Kolomitrousis, Manolas (Mihos 65), Skartados, Karapialis (Noplias 78), Mitropoulos, Kofidis, Anastopulos, Saravakos.

Austria: Lindenberger – Artner, Pfeiffer, Brauneder (Pecl 46), H. Weber, Zsak, Schachner (Marko 83), Schöttel (Werner 46), Rodax, Herzog (Baumeister 80), Willfurth.

INTERNATIONAL friendlies used to be big events in themselves. But the proliferation of competitive action means that the friendlies are now mere testing grounds. This was one such game — with a mere 8,000 fans present, even though the Greeks lined up Nikos Anastopulos, given clearance by his Italian club, Ascoli. Three goals in the first 24 minutes promised a more exciting match than the fans eventually got.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

Bourgas — friendly intl
Bulgaria 1 (Ivanov 82)
East German 1 (Stübner 30)
HT: 0-0. **Att.** 20,000. **Ref:** Wiesel (WG).

Bulgaria: Mikhailov – Dochev, Rakov, Vasev, Iliev, Kiryakov, Zdravkov (Getov 32), Sadkov (T. Ivanov 60), Penev, Sirakov, Stoichkov.

E. Germany: Rudwaleit – Kreer, Stahmann, Rösser, Rohde, Pilt (Kracht 80), Stübner, Steinmann, Kirsten, Ernst, Thom.

EAST GERMANY appeared poised for their third away win in 11 months (after victories in Iceland last May and in France last November) until substitute Ivanov snatched an equaliser for an increasingly desperate Bulgaria with eight minutes remaining.

OTHER MATCHES

March 2: Greece Olympic XI 1, East Germany Olympic XI 1.
March 9: Rumania U21 2, Bulgaira U21 0.
March 16: Rumania Oly. 1, OFK Belgrade 0 – Bulgaria U21 1, N. Korea 0.
March 23: Czechoslovakia Oly. 5, Bulgaria Oly. 1 – Bulgaria U21 2, Yugoslavia U21 1.

BALKAN CUP

March 2: PAOK Salonika 0, Slavia Sofia 1.

VIAREGGIO TOURNAMENT

Final: Fiorentina 1, Torino 0.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP
QUARTER FINALS

Feb 24 — Murcia
Spain 0
Holland 1 (Plomp 89 pen)
HT: 0.0. **Att.** 7,000. **Ref:** Peduzzi (Swz).

Mar 23 — Utrecht
Holland 2 (Van Leon 100, Viscaal 103)
Spain 1 (Loren 21)
HT: 0-0. **90 min:** 0-1. **Att:** 5,500. **Ref:** Halle (Nor).
Holland 3-1 on agg after extra time

Mar 16 — Nancy
France 2 (Paille 81, Sauzee 89(
Italy 1 (Maldini 51)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 13,462. **Ref:** Nemeth (Hun).

Mar 23 — San Benedetto del Tronto
Italy 2 (Rizzitelli 32, Ciocci 84)
France 2 (Paille 84,89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Kohl (Aus).
France 4-3 on agg.

Feb 16 — Aberdeen
Scotland 0
England 1 (Porter 79)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Karlsoon (Swe).

Mar 22 — Nottingham (City Ground)
England 1 (White 82)
Scotland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 11,284. **Ref:** Trischler (WG).
England 2-0 on agg.

Mar 2 — Athens
Greece 1 (Borbokis 49)
Czechoslovakia 1 (Niemecek 65)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Igna (Rum).

Mar 23 — Ceske Budejovice
Czechoslovakia 2 (Vacalopulos og 77, Litos 84)
Greece 2 (Karasavides 20, Kapuranis 86)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,500. **Ref:** Rosa dos Santos (Por).
Greece on away goals: 3-3 agg

SEMI-FINALS

Apr 13 — Besancon
France 4 (Angloma 23, Cantona 49, Dogon 78, Paille 83)
England 2 (Parker 24, Stewart 76)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Namoglu (Tur).

Apr 13 — Athens
Greece 5 (Karasavides 10, 41, 73, 88, Oikonomides 13)
Holland 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Peschel (EG).

ASIA

GULF CUP (in Saudi Arabia)

Results: Saudi Arabia 2, Oman 0; Kuwait 1, Qatar 1; UAE 2, Bahrain 0; Iraq 1, Oman 1; S. Arabia 0, Qatar 0; UAE 1, Kuwait 0; Bahrain 2, Oman 0; Iraq 1, Kuwait 0; Qatar 2, UAE 1; S. Arabia 1, Bahrain 0; Iraq 0, UAE 0; Oman 2, Qatar 1; Bahrain 1, Kuwait 0; Iraq 3, Qatar 0; S. Arabia 2, UAE 2; Kuwait 2, Oman 0; Iraq 1, S. Arabia 0; Bahrain 1, Qatar 0; UAE 1, S. Arabia 0, Kuwait 0; Iraq 1, Bahrain 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iraq	6	4	2	0	8	1	10
UAE	6	3	2	1	7	4	8
S. Arabia	6	2	3	1	5	4	7
Bahrain	6	3	0	3	4	4	6
Qatar	6	1	2	3	4	8	4
Kuwait	6	1	2	3	3	4	4
Oman	6	1	1	4	3	9	3

ARGENTINA

National A Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newell's Old Boys	27	14	9	4	47	20	37
San Lorenzo	28	12	12	4	39	22	36
Argentinos Juniors	28	13	9	65	39	27	35
Gimn y Esg. La Pl	28	9	16	3	36	26	34
Deportivo Español	28	9	15	4	40	30	33
RC Avellaneda	28	10	13	5	37	27	33
River Plate	28	11	10	7	38	32	33
Velez Sarsfield	28	11	8	9	35	32	30
Independiente	28	9	12	7	26	24	30
Ferrocaril Oeste	28	7	15	6	21	20	29
Platense	28	8	12	8	34	36	28
Rosario Central	28	7	12	9	38	33	26
Deportivo Armenio	28	6	14	8	27	32	26
Instituto Córdoba	28	8	9	11	30	44	25
Estud de La Plata	28	4	16	8	23	28	24
Boca Juniors	28	8	7	13	27	43	23
Racing Córdoba	28	7	6	15	24	36	30
Banfield	28	5	10	13	22	40	20
Talleres Córdoba	28	3	13	12	31	48	19
Unión Santa Fe*	27	4	9	14	23	37	17

*Suspended game to finish — 0-0 after 38 minutes.

Bottom relegation standings (average points over last three seasons): Estudiantes La Plata 0.86; Platense 0.80; Unión 0.78; Racing Córdoba 0.77; Banfield 0.71. (Botton two relegated).

COLOMBIA

Professional League (1st stage)

Group 1	P	W	D	L	Pts
Indep Sante Fe	2	1	1	0	3
Cucuta	3	0	3	0	3
Bucaramanga	2	1	1	0	3
Tolima	3	0	2	1	2
Millionarios	2	0	1	1	1
Group 2					
Pereira	2	2	0	0	4
Dep Cali	3	0	2	1	2
Caldas	2	0	2	0	2
Quindio	3	0	2	1	2
America	2	1	0	1	2
Group 3					
Nacional	2	2	0	0	4
Sporting Barranquilla	3	1	1	1	3
Union Magdalena	2	1	1	0	3
Junior Barranquilla	2	0	1	1	1
Independients Medellin	3	0	1	2	1

(Winner of each group in final round).

PERU

Decentralised championship
(Final standings)

1 Sporting Cristal 44 points; 2 Alianza Lima 43; 3 Universitario de Deportes 41; 4 Union Huaral 40; 5 Bolognesi 37; 6 Alfonso Ugarte 32; 7 Colegio Nacional Iquitos, Deportivo Municipal 31; 9 Cienciano Depotivo Junin 24; 11 Universidad Cajamarca, Carlos Manucci 23; 13 San Agustin 22; 14 Hungaritos, Deportivo Pucallpa 21; 16 Unión Minas 19.

BOLIVIA

Professional League
(Final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	26	18	2	6	60	24	38
Oriente Petrolero	26	13	8	5	53	32	34
Petrolero	26	12	8	6	37	30	32
The Stongest	26	13	3	10	48	29	29
Litoral	26	11	6	9	42	37	28
Destroyers	26	11	6	9	27	27	28
Always Ready	26	7	12	7	26	23	26
Blooming	26	10	5	11	29	26	25
Wilsterman	26	8	8	10	28	27	24
Real Santa Cruz	26	9	5	12	30	33	23
San José	26	9	3	14	26	57	21
Aurora	26	7	5	14	32	47	19
Ciclon	26	7	5	14	26	45	19
Universitario	26	5	8	13	18	46	18

*Top eight qualify for final round.

VENEZUELA

Professional League

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Maritimo	22	11	9	2	31
Portuguesa	22	10	7	5	27
Zamora	22	9	8	5	26
Tachira	22	10	5	7	25
Mineros Guayana	22	8	8	6	24
Caracus FC	22	9	6	7	24
Pepeganga	22	8	7	7	23
Universidad los Andes	22	7	8	7	22
Lara	22	7	8	7	22
Anzoategui	22	6	8	7	20
Peninsulares	22	6	8	8	20
Estudiantes Merida	22	5	7	10	17
Italia	22	5	7	10	17
Univers. Central Venez	22	2	5	15	9

MEXICO

First Division

Group 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Univ Auto Mexico	25	9	12	4	46	28	30
Guadalajara	25	11	8	6	33	19	30
Atlante	25	9	7	9	40	36	25
Tampico-Madero	25	2	14	9	26	42	18
Angeles	25	5	8	12	31	50	18
Group 2							
Univ Guadalajara	25	14	7	4	49	26	35
Univ A Guadalajara	25	12	7	6	37	23	31
Cruz Azul	25	8	9	8	38	38	25
Atlas	25	7	10	8	39	45	24
At. Potisino	25	3	11	11	22	37	17
Group 3							
America	25	14	6	5	49	24	34
Puebla	25	11	7	7	38	31	29
Necaxa	25	8	10	7	27	30	26
Neza	25	7	8	10	29	40	22
Irapuato	25	6	6	13	21	42	18
Group 4							
Morelia	25	11	9	5	42	24	31
Toluca	25	11	4	10	29	32	26
Monterrey	25	6	9	10	40	40	21
Univ Nuevo Leon	25	7	6	12	27	41	20
Univ. A Tamaulipas	25	7	6	12	29	44	20

BRAZIL

(Rio de Janeiro)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fluminense	2	2	0	0	8	0	4
Bangu	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
Flamengo	2	1	1	0	3	0	3
Botafogo	2	1	1	0	4	3	3
Vasco	2	1	0	1	2	1	2
Cabofriense	2	1	0	1	1	3	2
Americano	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
America	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Goytacaz	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Porto Alegre	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Fribueguense	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
Volta Redondo	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

(Sao Paulo

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Limeira	10	5	4	1	14	9	14
Sao Paulo	10	6	1	3	17	9	13
Mogi Mirim	10	4	4	2	11	9	12
XV Jau	10	4	4	2	14	13	12
Santos	10	4	3	3	10	8	11
Botafogo	10	4	0	6	7	15	8
Uniao	10	2	4	4	9	11	8
Novorizontino	10	2	3	5	8	13	7
Noroeste	10	1	5	4	10	14	7
Juventus	10	2	2	6	9	19	6
Group B							
Corinthians	10	7	1	2	22	9	15
Guarani	10	6	3	1	18	4	15
Portoguesa	10	4	4	2	16	11	12
Sao José	10	3	6	1	11	7	12
Palmeiras	10	4	2	4	9	10	10
Snato Andre	10	4	1	5	9	10	9
Ferroviaria	10	4	1	5	10	13	9
XV Piracicaba	10	3	2	5	9	17	8
America	10	2	3	5	10	17	7
Sao Bento	10	1	3	6	2	13	5

(Minas Gerais

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
At Mineiro	15	11	2	2	22	6	24
Cruzeiro	15	9	5	1	32	11	23
Fabril	15	7	6	2	19	13	20
Uberlandia	15	7	5	3	14	9	19
Valerio	15	6	5	4	20	15	17
Uberaba	15	6	5	4	16	13	17
Tupi	15	4	6	5	23	24	14
Caldense	15	4	6	5	8	10	14
Nacional	14	3	7	4	16	15	13
America	15	4	5	6	11	13	13
Villa Nova	15	3	7	5	12	15	13
Democrata SL	14	3	5	6	13	17	11
Esportivo	15	3	5	7	12	17	11
Sport JF	15	4	2	9	17	24	10
Rio Branco	15	3	4	8	10	24	10
Minas	15	2	5	8	6	24	9

(Rio Grande du Sul)

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter PA	5	2	3	0	5	1	7
Aimore	4	1	3	0	4	3	5
Guarany	4	1	3	0	4	3	5
Juventude	5	1	2	2	3	7	4
Inter SM	4	1	1	2	4	4	3
Pelotas	4	1	1	2	2	3	3
Esportivo	4	0	3	1	1	2	3
Group B							
Gremio	5	4	0	1	15	3	8
Santa Cruz	5	2	2	1	3	2	6
Caxias	4	2	1	1	5	6	5
Passo Fundo	4	2	0	2	4	6	4
Lajeadense	4	1	1	2	4	4	3
Sao Paulo	4	1	0	3	2	8	2
Brasil	4	0	2	2	2	6	2

LEAGUE TABLES . . . LEAGUE TABLES . . . LEAGUE TABLES . . .

ECUADOR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aucas	6	4	2	0	15	7	10
Tecnico Univ	6	5	0	1	9	2	10
LDU Quito	6	4	1	1	12	6	9
Filanbanco	6	3	2	1	7	5	8
Dep Cuenca	6	2	3	1	9	7	7
Emelec	6	2	3	1	9	8	7
Nacional	6	2	3	1	11	9	7
Barcelona	6	3	1	2	7	6	7
Audaz Oct	6	2	2	2	6	7	6
U Catolica	6	2	2	2	7	6	6
Dep Quito	6	2	2	2	10	11	6
Esmeraldas	6	2	1	3	7	8	5
LDU Portov	6	2	0	4	7	10	4
Juventus	6	1	2	3	4	8	4
Dep Quevedo	6	1	2	3	5	10	4
America	6	1	1	4	3	9	3
Macarà	6	0	3	3	5	8	3
River	6	1	0	5	4	10	2

PARAGUAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sol de América	5	4	1	0	12	2	9
Colegialas	5	3	7	0	8	3	8
Libertad	5	3	0	2	5	6	6
S. Colombia	5	2	1	2	8	6	5
Cerro Porteño	5	2	1	2	5	5	5
Guarani	5	2	1	2	8	5	5
Sp Luqueño	5	2	1	2	9	8	5
Olimpia	5	1	2	2	5	8	4
G. Caballero	5	2	0	3	6	8	4
San Lorenzo	5	1	2	2	6	8	4
River	5	1	2	2	6	9	4
Nacional	5	0	1	4	2	11	1

URUGUAY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Peñarol	5	5	0	0	12	4	10
Danubio	5	3	1	1	6	3	7
Misiones	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
River	5	2	2	1	7	6	6
Bella Vista	5	2	1	2	4	3	5
Defensor	4	2	1	1	2	1	5
Liverpool	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Cerro	5	1	3	1	3	2	5
Progreso	5	1	1	3	4	7	3
Huracan B	5	0	2	3	5	10	2
Nacional	3	1	0	2	4	5	2
Wanderers	3	0	1	2	0	2	1

ALBANIA

(Second phase final)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
17 Nentori	26	11	11	4	41	20	33
Flamurtari	26	10	9	7	38	27	29
Labinoti	26	10	9	7	22	19	29
Apolonia	26	11	6	9	36	28	28
Besa	28	8	12	6	28	22	28
Vllaznia	26	11	6	9	30	26	28
Beselidhja	26	9	10	7	24	28	28
Lokomotiva	26	9	9	8	27	28	27
Partizani	26	9	8	9	38	34	26
Skenderbeu	26	8	10	8	17	26	26
Dinamo	26	7	11	8	33	32	25
Luftetari	26	7	10	9	19	19	24
Tomori	26	8	7	11	29	34	23
31 Korriku	26	3	4	19	22	61	10

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brugge	30	21	4	5	67	31	46
Mechelen	30	20	4	6	45	22	44
Antwerp	30	18	8	4	67	34	44
FC Liège	30	13	14	3	46	23	40
Anderlecht	30	15	9	6	59	24	39
Waregem	30	14	5	11	47	42	33
Cercle Bruges	30	11	7	12	44	42	29
Standard	30	10	8	12	43	42	28
Kortijk	30	10	7	13	39	52	27
St Truiden	30	9	9	12	24	32	27
Charleroi	30	9	9	12	33	43	27
RWDM	30	7	12	11	29	41	25
Beerschot	30	9	6	15	34	41	24
Beveren	30	7	9	14	30	33	23
Ghent	30	8	6	16	31	50	22
Lokeren	30	7	8	15	32	42	22
Racing Jet	30	7	6	17	20	50	20
Winterslag	30	7	6	17	27	71	20

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Xamax Neuchatel	8	4	3	1	22	12	27
Aarau	8	4	3	1	17	10	24
Servette	7	3	3	1	20	15	21
Grasshopper	8	2	2	4	14	17	21
Lucerne	7	2	4	1	6	6	20
St Gall	8	3	1	4	9	13	19
Lausanne	8	2	2	4	11	20	18
Young Boys	8	2	0	6	1	17	17

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Larissa	28	17	6	5	49	22	40
PAOK	28	17	3	8	60	25	37
OFI Crete	28	17	2	9	47	36	36
AEK	28	13	10	5	46	31	36
Iraklis	28	13	8	7	41	30	34
Panathinaikos	28	14	5	9	41	32	33
Ethnikos	28	12	8	8	30	21	32
Olympiakos	28	8	12	8	37	39	28
Panionios	28	7	10	11	30	29	24
Aris	28	9	5	14	32	37	23
Panachaiki	28	9	4	15	32	46	22
Verria	28	7	8	13	24	51	22
Kalamaria	28	6	10	12	21	37	22
Diagoras	28	7	7	14	34	36	21
Levadiakos	28	6	9	13	31	43	21
Panserraikos	28	6	5	17	22	44	17

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Napoli	27	18	6	3	50	19	42
Milan	27	16	9	2	39	11	41
Roma	27	13	8	6	36	23	34
Sampdoria	27	12	10	5	38	26	34
Torino	27	7	15	5	30	26	29
Juventus	27	10	8	9	32	27	28
Inter	27	10	8	9	36	31	28
Verona	27	7	11	9	23	27	25
Fiorentina	27	7	10	10	23	28	24
Cesena	27	7	10	10	21	29	24
Pescara	27	8	7	12	24	39	23
Ascoli	27	5	10	12	28	37	20
Como	27	4	12	11	18	35	20
Avellino	27	4	12	11	17	36	20
Pisa	27	4	11	12	20	30	19
Empoli	27	44	13	10	16	27	16

Empoli minus five points.

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	31	23	7	1	69	14	53
Benfica	31	18	9	4	51	16	45
Sporting	31	14	10	7	48	36	38
Boavista	31	13	12	6	38	20	38
Belenenses	31	14	9	8	41	34	37
Setubal	31	13	8	10	51	35	34
Chaves	31	10	12	9	45	29	32
Penafiel	31	9	14	8	31	33	32
Espinho	31	10	11	10	33	34	31
Guimaraes	31	10	10	11	43	39	30
Maritimo	31	7	14	10	28	35	28
Braga	31	7	13	11	27	37	27
Academica	31	8	11	12	30	37	27
Farense	31	9	9	13	25	39	27
Portimonense	31	10	7	14	31	42	27
Varzim	31	7	11	13	24	43	25
Rio Ave	31	7	11	13	28	51	25
Elvas	31	5	15	11	28	38	25
Salgueiros	31	5	12	14	24	44	22
Covilha	31	5	7	19	27	58	17

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oster	3	2	1	0	2	0	5
Orgryte	3	2	0	1	4	3	4
GIF Sundsvall	3	2	0	1	2	1	4
Brage	3	2	0	1	3	4	4
IFK Goteberg	3	1	1	1	3	1	3
Frolunda	3	1	1	1	5	4	3
Djurgarden	3	1	1	1	4	3	3
GAIS	3	1	0	2	2	2	2
Norrkopimg	3	1	0	2	3	4	2
Malmo FF	3	1	0	2	5	7	2
AIK	3	1	0	2	3	5	2
Hammarby	3	1	0	2	2	4	2

TUNISIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esp Sp Tunis	20	11	8	1	32	8	61
Club Africain	20	11	8	1	30	9	61
Cl Ol Trans	20	11	6	3	22	9	59
Statde Tunisien	20	10	5	5	27	12	55
Cl Sp Sfaxien	20	8	8	4	22	15	52
Et Sp Sahel	19	6	7	6	12	13	44
Jeun Sp Kair	20	6	6	8	18	19	44
Un Sp Mon	20	5	7	8	13	19	42
Cl Athl Bizerte	19	6	4	9	18	25	41
Cl Sp H.-Lif	20	4	9	7	11	16	41
Av Sp Kass	20	5	6	9	15	27	41
Olymp Béja	20	5	5	10	16	28	40
Olympique Kef	20	3	9	8	13	24	38
Gr Sports	20	2	4	14	6	31	30

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rapid	28	16	10	7	57	28	42
Austria V	28	14	6	8	64	38	34
First Vienna	28	15	2	11	58	47	32
Sturm Graz	28	12	8	8	45	12	32
Admira Wac	28	14	3	11	62	41	31
Grazer AK	28	11	9	8	42	44	31
Tirol	25	10	10	8	40	41	30
Wiener SK	28	7	12	9	47	57	26

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Galatasaray	33	22	9	2	73	33	75
Besiktas	33	21	9	3	61	21	72
Malatyaspor	36	16	9	8	56	52	57
Bursaspor	33	15	6	12	53	45	51
Trabzonspor	33	15	6	12	51	45	51
Fenerbahce	33	14	9	10	39	54	51
Karsiyake	33	12	14	7	38	28	50
Samsunspor	33	14	8	11	33	33	50
Adana S'spor	33	14	4	15	52	53	46
Sariyer	33	10	14	9	50	44	44
Sakaryaspor	33	12	8	13	41	54	44
Ankaragucu	33	10	12	11	42	41	42
Eskisehirspor	33	9	13	11	39	41	40
Boluspor	33	11	7	15	38	46	40
Denizlispor	33	11	7	15	29	41	40
Altay	33	10	9	14	49	51	39
Rizespor	33	9	7	17	28	51	34
Genclerbirligi	33	7	7	19	34	48	28
Kocaelispor	33	5	13	15	35	54	28
Zonguldakspor	33	4	7	22	29	55	19

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Werder Bremen	29	19	8	2	53	15	46
Bayern Munich	29	19	3	7	71	38	41
Cologne	29	15	11	3	48	23	41
Stuttgart	29	15	6	8	59	41	36
Nuremberg	29	12	10	7	40	30	34
Borussia Mg	29	13	3	13	46	41	29
Bayer Leverkusen	29	9	11	9	43	46	29
Hamburg SV	29	9	11	9	43	57	29
Eintracht Frankfurt	29	10	7	12	46	44	27
Hanover	29	10	6	13	46	48	26
Borussia Dortmund	29	8	9	12	40	42	25
Bayer Uerdingen	29	9	7	13	46	53	25
Waldhof Mannheim	29	7	11	11	31	43	25
Karlsruhe	29	8	8	13	31	50	24
Bochum	29	7	9	13	40	45	23
Kaiserslautern	29	7	7	15	40	56	21
FC Homburg	29	6	9	14	33	58	21
Schalke	29	8	4	17	45	76	20

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Velez	26	12	10	4	38	20	34
Red Star	26	11	10	5	48	34	32
Dinamo	26	12	7	7	37	27	31
Sloboda	26	12	6	8	40	27	30
Partizan	26	11	8	7	38	27	30
Vardar	26	12	5	9	27	27	29
Vojvodina	26	10	7	9	35	37	27
Radnicki	26	11	4	11	37	32	26
Rijeka	26	6	14	6	23	23	26
Hadjuk	26	8	10	8	34	36	26
Rad	26	9	7	10	33	36	25
Zeleznicar	26	7	10	9	27	30	24
Buducnost	26	7	10	9	26	34	24
Sarajevo	26	8	7	11	24	31	23
Osijek	26	6	10	10	31	42	22
Sutjesta	26	7	6	13	28	37	20
Pristina	26	7	6	13	29	42	20
Celik	26	7	6	14	23	36	19

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	32	25	5	2	107	26	55
Ajax	32	22	4	6	74	37	48
FC Twente Ensch	32	14	9	9	57	39	37
Feyenoord	31	14	7	10	60	49	35
Willem II	32	13	9	10	54	44	35
VVV Venlo	32	12	11	9	40	34	35
Haarlem	32	14	5	13	41	43	33
Fortuna Sittard	31	10	12	9	49	45	32
FC Den Bosch	32	13	6	41	45	32	66
FC Utrecht	31	10	11	11	38	50	31
Sparta Rotterdam	31	11	8	12	38	38	30
FC Groningen	32	11	6	15	49	51	28
Volendam	32	10	8	14	39	61	28
Roda JC Kerkrade	32	9	8	15	43	53	26
AZ'67 Alkmaar	32	8	10	14	39	60	26
PEC Zwolle	32	9	8	15	38	64	26
FC Den Haag	30	7	7	16	46	62	21
DS '79	31	2	8	21	40	92	12

CAMEROON

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Union Douala	16	9	4	3	19	7	22
Aigle N'Kong	17	7	7	3	14	9	21
Tonnerre	15	7	6	2	15	8	20
Diamant	16	8	4	4	18	12	20
Panthère Bang	17	5	9	3	14	12	19
Fed Foumban	17	7	5	5	19	18	19
Rac Bafous	16	6	6	4	13	10	18
Cammark	17	5	8	4	14	13	18
Caiman Douala	17	6	6	5	18	19	17
Dyn Douala	17	5	7	5	12	13	17
Canon	17	5	5	7	15	16	15
Colombe Sang	15	5	5	7	12	17	15
Santos	17	4	6	7	14	19	14
Un Bafang	17	3	7	7	10	15	13
Aigle Oschang	15	1	8	7	8	14	10
PWD Bamenda	17	1	6	10	8	21	8

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vitosha	24	15	7	2	51	23	37
CSKA Sredets	24	16	4	4	57	27	36
Trakia	24	12	7	5	41	24	31
Slavia	24	10	8	6	33	22	28
Lok Sofia	24	11	6	7	38	34	28
Lok GO	24	10	3	11	32	37	23
Pirin	24	6	10	8	26	25	22
Beroe	24	8	6	10	30	38	22
Mineur	24	8	5	11	32	30	21
Sliven	24	9	3	13	29	35	21
Vratza	24	7	6	11	29	26	20
Spartak Varna	24	7	6	11	27	40	20
Lok Plovdiv	24	9	2	13	34	54	20
Etar	24	7	5	12	35	36	19
Tchernomoretz	24	8	2	14	21	35	18
Spartak Pleven	24	5	8	11	28	47	18

CYPRUS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Apole	21	15	3	5	38	16	33
Pezoporikos	23	16	3	4	37	18	35
Omonia	21	11	5	5	44	21	27
Ael	21	11	4	6	34	22	26
Paralimni	21	10	6	5	26	23	26
Apollon	21	8	8	6	31	26	24
Epa	21	8	7	6	28	25	23
Salamina	21	8	4	9	27	26	20
Anortosi	21	5	9	7	21	25	19
Apop	21	5	8	8	22	27	18
Olympiakos	20	7	4	9	21	32	18
Aris	21	5	6	10	27	36	16
Ethnikos	21	2	12	7	17	28	16
Apep	21	4	6	11	15	32	14
Alki	21	3	7	11	17	33	13
Anagesnnisis	21	3	5	13	16	32	11

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Berlin	20	11	6	3	47	22	28
Dresden	21	10	8	3	40	18	28
Lok. Leipzig	20	10	8	2	30	15	28
Brandedurg	21	10	5	6	35	28	25
Karl-Marx-S	21	7	9	5	34	30	23
Magdeburg	20	8	6	6	29	23	22
CZ Jena	20	7	8	5	23	21	22
Chemie Halle	20	4	11	5	22	22	19
Union Berlin	20	5	7	8	25	43	17
Rotweiss Erfurt	21	6	4	11	33	42	16
Vorwärts	21	4	8	9	26	35	16
Wismut Aue	21	5	5	11	18	31	15
Hansa Rostock	21	4	7	10	29	45	25
Stahl Riesa	21	3	8	10	18	34	14

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monaco	32	17	10	5	43	22	44
Bordeaux	32	15	9	8	37	25	39
Racing	32	13	14	6	34	32	38
Marseille	32	16	5	11	46	35	37
Saint-Etienne	32	16	4	12	46	48	36
Montpellier	32	14	8	10	51	31	36
Auxerre	32	11	13	8	30	18	35
Toulon	32	11	11	10	30	22	33
Metz	32	13	6	12	35	32	32
Cannes	32	11	9	12	35	43	31
Nantes	32	10	11	11	35	32	31
Laval	32	11	7	14	34	33	30
Lille	32	11	7	14	34	33	30
Nice	32	13	3	16	33	39	29
Lens	32	11	6	15	33	51	28
Niort	32	10	9	13	28	31	28
Paris SG	32	9	9	14	28	37	27
Toulouse	31	10	7	15	26	40	26
Brest	32	9	8	15	29	47	26
Le Havre	32	6	10	16	29	50	22

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	33	25	5	3	82	20	55
Real Sociedad	32	20	4	8	53	26	44
Atl. Madrid	33	17	7	9	50	30	41
Bilbao	33	16	9	8	46	40	41
Celta	33	13	10	10	38	31	36
Sevilla	33	13	9	11	38	38	35
Vallodolid	33	12	10	11	27	29	34
Osasuna	33	12	9	12	34	32	33
Barcelona	33	13	7	13	41	39	33
Gijon	33	12	8	13	38	45	32
Cadice	33	11	9	13	41	47	31
Valencia	33	10	10	13	38	45	30
Zaragota	32	8	13	11	44	47	30
Español	33	11	7	15	41	49	29
Logroñes	33	10	8	15	24	42	28
Murcia	33	8	11	14	27	36	27
Betis	33	11	5	17	36	44	27
Las Palmsa	33	11	4	18	41	59	26
Mallorca	33	8	9	16	31	48	25
Sabadell	33	6	10	17	20	45	22

OLYMPIC GAMES . . . . . OLYMPIC GAMES

EUROPE

Preliminary round

Group 1

10. 9.86	Liechtenstein — Switzerland	0-10
23. 9.86	Switzerland — Liechtenstein	9-0

Switzerland 19-0 on agg.

Group 2

12.11.86	Cyprus — Greece	1-2
10.12.86	Greece — Cyprus	2-0

Greece 4-1 on agg.

Final round

Group A

18. 4.87	Rumania v W. Germany	1-0
20. 5.87	Greece v Denmark	0-5
20. 5.87	Rumania v Poland	0-0
10. 6.87	Denmark v Rumania	8-0
3. 9.87	Rumania v Denmark	1-2
22. 9.87	W. Germany v Greece	3-0
13.10.87	W. Germany v Poland	5-1
28.10.87	Poland v Denmark	2-0*
18.11.87	Denmark v W Germany	0-1
16. 3.88	Poland v Greece	5-1
22. 3.88	W Germany v Denmark	1-1
30. 3.88	Poland v Rumania	1-0
20. 4.88	Denmark v Greece	4-0
27. 4.88	Poland v W Germany	
18. 5.88	Denmark v Poland	
31. 5.88	Germany v Rumania	

*Denmark won 2-0 but the result was reversed by FIFA because Denmark fielded Per Frimann, who was ineligible having played in the last World Cup qualifiers.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Denmark	7	4	1	2	20	5	9
West Germany	6	4	1	1	12	3	9
Poland	6	3	1	2	8	7	7
Greece	7	2	0	5	3	19	4
Rumania	6	1	1	4	2	12	3

Group B

3.12.86	Holland v E Germany	0-1
18. 2.87	Italy v Portugal	1-0
25. 2.87	Portugal v Holland	1-1
25. 3.87	E Germany v Italy	0-0
15. 4.87	Italy v Iceland	2-0
28. 4.87	Portugal v E. Germany	0-0
26. 5.87	Iceland v Holland	2-2
2. 9.87	Iceland v E Germany	2-0
22. 9.87	E Germany v Holland	4-2
7.10.87	Portugal v Iceland	2-1
18.11.87	Italy v E Germany	1-1
24. 2.88	Portugal v Italy	0-0
9. 3.88	Holland v Italy	0-1
30. 3.88	Holland v Portugal	0-0
13. 4.88	E Germany v Portugal	3-0
13. 4.88	Italy v Holland	3-0
27. 4.88	Holland v Iceland	
30. 4.88	E Germany v Iceland	
24. 5.88	Iceland v Portugal	
29. 5.88	Iceland v Italy	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	7	4	3	0	8	1	11
East Germany	7	3	3	1	9	5	9
Portugal	7	1	4	2	3	6	6
Iceland	4	1	1	2	5	6	3
Holland	7	0	3	4	5	12	3

Group C

19.11.86	Spain v Sweden	1-1
19.11.86	Ireland Rep v Hungary	1-2
4. 2.87	Ireland Rep v Spain	2-2
28. 4.87	France v Hungary	0-2
5. 5.87	Sweden v Ireland Rep	1-0
13. 5.87	Hungary v Spain	2-1
3. 6.87	Hungary v Sweden	2-1
16. 6.87	Sweden v France	4-2
12. 8.87	France v Ireland Rep	1-0
25. 8.87	Ireland Rep v Sweden	0-1
9. 9.87	Sweden v Hungary	1-0
23. 9.87	Sweden v Spain	2-0
14.10.87	Spain v France	1-2
18.11.87	Ireland Rep v France	3-0
18.11.87	Spain v Hungary	1-0
23. 3.88	France v Spain	1-1
23. 4.88	Hungary v France	
4. 5.88	Hungary v Ireland Rep	
18. 5.88	Spain v Ireland Rep	
26. 5.88	France v Sweden	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	5	5	1	1	11	5	11
Hungary	6	4	0	2	8	5	8
Spain	7	1	3	3	7	10	5
Ireland	6	1	2	3	7	7	4
France	6	1	2	3	5	11	4

Group D

14.10.86	Norway v Sov Union	0-0
8.11.86	Switzerland v Norway	1-0
3.12.86	Turkey v Switzerland	3-2
15. 4.87	Turkey v Sov Union	0-2
16. 4.87	Switzerlandv Bulgaria	1-1
6. 5.87	Norway v Turkey	1-1
7. 5.87	Bulgaria v Sov Union	0-1
26. 5.87	Norway v Bulgaria	0-0
12. 8.87	Sov Union v Norway	1-0
26. 8.87	Norway v Switzerland	0-0
7.10.87	Switzerland v Turkey	2-0
28.10.87	Switzerland v Sov Union	2-4
14.11.87	Bulgaria v Norway	4-0
18.11.87	Turkey v Norway	0-0
9.12.87	Turkey v Bulgaria	0-3
6. 4.88	Sov Union v Turkey	2-0
16. 4.88	Bulgaria v Switzerland	2-0
27. 4.88	Sov Union v Bulgaria	
10. 5.88	Sov Union v Switzerland	
25. 5.88	Bulgaria v Turkey	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Soviet Union	6	5	1	0	10	2	11
Bulgaria	6	3	2	1	10	2	8
Switzerland	7	2	2	3	8	10	6
Norway	8	0	5	3	1	7	5
Turkey	7	1	2	4	4	12	4

Group E

14.10.86	Finland v Belgium	0-2
29.10.86	Czechoslovakia v Belgium	2-0
18.11.86	Belgium v Austria	2-3
14. 4.87	Austria v Czechoslovakia	2-0
12. 5.87	Finland v Austria	2-1
3. 6.87	Austria v Yugoslavia	0-1
10. 6.87	Finland v Czechoslovakia	0-2
26. 8.87	Yugoslavia v Austria	2-1
2. 9.87	Yugoslavia v Finland	5-0
23. 9.87	Czechoslovakia v Finland	2-0
24. 9.87	Belgium v Yugoslavia	2-2
7.10.87	Belgium v Czechoslovakia	0-2
28.10.87	Belgium v Finland	1-0
28.10.87	Czechoslovakia v Yugoslavia	1-0
11.11.87	Austria v Belgium	0-1
2.12.87	Yugoslavia v Belgium	4-0
12. 4.88	Czechoslovakia v Austria	1-0
27. 4.88	Yugoslavia v Czechoslovakia	
18. 5.88	Finland v Yugoslavia	
31. 5.88	Austria v Finland	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Czechoslovakia	7	6	0	1	10	2	12
Yugolavia	6	4	1	1	10	4	9
Belgium	8	3	1	4	8	13	7
Austria	7	2	0	5	7	9	4
Finland	6	1	0	5	2	13	2

ASIA

West Asia — 1st round results in October edition.

Final round

4.12.87	Saudi Arabia v Iraq	0-0
4.12.87	Qatar v Kuwait	0-0
11.12.87	Qatar v Iraq	1-3
11.12.87	Kuwait v Saudi Arabia	1-0
18.12.87	Kuwait v Iraq	2-1
18.12.87	Saudi Arabia v Qatar	1-1
1. 1.88*	Iraq v Saudi Arabia	1-1
1. 1.88	Kuwait v Qatar	0-0
8. 1.88*	Iraq v Qatar	4-1
8. 1.88	Saudi Arabia v Kuwait	0-0
15. 1.88*	Iraq v Kuwait	1-0
15. 1.88	Qatar v Saudi Arabia	1-0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iraq	6	3	2	1	10	5	8
Kuwait	6	2	3	1	3	2	7
Qatar	6	1	3	2	4	8	5
Saudie Arabia	6	0	4	2	2	4	4

IRAQ QUALIFY

East Asia — 1st round results in October edition.

Final Round

2. 9.87	Thailand v Japan	0-0
15. 9.87	Japan v nepal	5-0
18. 9.87	Nepal v Japan*	0-9
23. 9.87	China v Nepal	8-0
26. 9.87	Japan v Thailand	1-0
26. 9.87	Nepal v China**	0-12
1.10.87	Thailand v Nepal	3-0
4.10.87	Nepal v Thailand***	1-2
4.10.87	China v Japan	0-1
11.10.87	Thailand v China	0-1
18.10.87	China v Thailand	2-0
26.10.87	Japan v China	0-2

*Match played in Tokyo
**Match played in Shenyan (China)
***Match played in Bangkok

CHINA QUALIFY

OCEANIA

Group 1

Papua New Guinea — withdrawal

15.11.87	Taiwan v Australia	0-3
26. 2.88	Australia v Taiwan	3-0

Group 2

Fiji — withdrawal

7.11.87	W Samoa v New Zealand	0-7
14.11.87	New Zealand v W. Samoa	12-0

Final tournament
(In Australia and New Zealand)

AUSTRALIA QUALIFY

AFRICA

Preliminary and 1st round results in October edition.

Second round

4.10.87	Tunisia v Egypt	0-0
13.11.87	Egypt v Tunisia	0-1
4.10.87	Ghana v Cameroon	0-0
15.11.87	Cameroon v Ghana	2-2
1.11.87	Ivory Coast v Morocco	0-0
15.11.87	Morocco v Ivory Coast	2-1
3.10.87	Uganda v Zambia	2-1
14.11.87	Zambia v Uganda	5-0
4.10.87	Zimbabwe v Nigeria	0-0
17.10.87	Nigeria v Zimbabwe	2-0

Algeria w/o v Libya

Third Round

15. 1.88	Algeria v Nigeria	1-0
30. 1.88	Nigeria v Algeria	2-0

Nigeria 2-1 on aggregate

17. 1.88	Tunisia v Morocco	1-0
30. 1.88	Morocco v Tunisia	2-2

Tunisia 3-2 on aggregate

17. 1.88	Zambia v Ghana	2-0
31. 1.88	Ghana v Zambia	1-0

Zambia 2-1 on aggregate

TUNISIA, ZAMBIA, NIGERIA QUALIFY

SOUTH AMERICA

Tournament in Bolivia

Groups A and B — results in June edition

Final round

29. 4.87	Bolivia v Colombia	2-1
	Argentina v Brazil	2-0
1. 5.87	Brazil v Colombia	2-1
	Bolivia v Argentina	0-0
3. 5.87	Colombia v Argentina	1-0
	Brazil v Bolivia	2-1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	0	1	4	4	4
Argentina	3	1	1	1	2	1	3
Bolivia	3	1	1	1	3	3	3
Colombia	3	1	0	2	3	4	2

BRAZIL, ARGENTINA QUALIFY

NORTH/CENTRAL AMERICA

Group A

25. 1.87	Bahamas v Guyana	1-3
22. 2.87	Guyana v Bahamas	3-0
26. 4.87	Antigua v Dom. Republic	1-1
3. 5.87	Dom. Republic v Antigua	0-0
	Trinidad/Tobago W/O v Surinam*	
22. 3.87	Barbados v Jamaica	0-0
5. 4.87	Jamaica v Barbados	0-1

Second round

31. 5.87	Guyana v. Dom. Republic	4-0
7. 6.87	Dom. Republic v. Guyana	1-2
10. 5.87	T/Tobago v. Barbados	2-0
24. 5.87	Barbados v. T/Tobago	1-1

Group B

23. 5.87	Canada v USA	2-0
30. 5.87	USA v Canada	3-0
1. 4.87	Bermuda v Mexico	2-1
13. 5.87	Mexico v Bermuda	6-0

Group C

19. 4.87	Panama v El Salvador	1-1
17. 5.87	El Salvador v Panama	3-2
17. 5.87	Honduras v Guatemala	1-2
31. 5.87	Guatemala v Honduras	2-2

Final round

Group A

6. 9.87	USA v Trin/Tob	4-1
20. 9.87	Trin/Tob v USA	0-1
18.10.87	El Salvador v USA	2 4
22 or		
25. 5.88	USA v El Salvador	
15. 5.88	El Salvador v Trin/Tob	
29. 5.88	Trin/Tob v El Salvador	

Group B

18.10.87	Guatemala v Guyana	6-0
25.10.87	Guyana v Guatemala	0-3
2.12.87	Guyana v Mexico	0-9
9.12.87	Mexico w/o v Guyana	—
3. 2.88	Mexico v Guatemala	2-1
14. 2.88	Guatemala v Mexico	0-3

MEXICO QUALIFY

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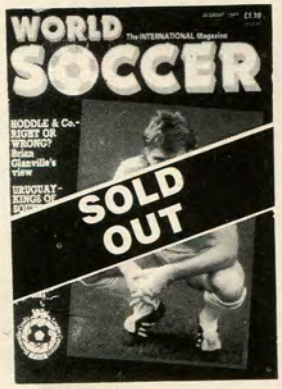

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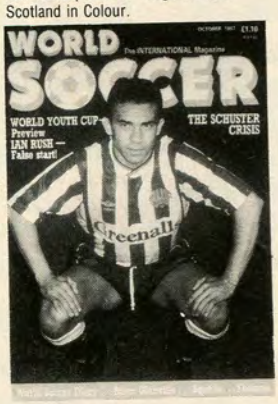

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